

Michael Flatley: Dancing wrecked my marriage

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Times man is top of the tipsters

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Should Hitler's Olympic art be saved?

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Human spare-part cloning approved



By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

EXPERTS will recommend the Government today to allow research into human cloning techniques to make spare parts for transplants or the treatment of disease.

guards, research should continue into creating cloned tissues that can be transplanted.

electric current is passed through the cells and the empty egg so that they fuse together.

cloned babies from being born is expected to take the form of a requirement that the embryos will be kept alive only long enough to produce the stem cells needed for growing the different types of tissue.

There have been important advances in cloning technology since Dolly was born.

Bioethics at Manchester University, argues that making spare parts in this way is no more than a logical extension of present transplant surgery.

Curbs on Post Office relaxed

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Post Office is to lose its monopoly on delivering letters costing less than 1p under plans set out by Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary.

It will also be ruled by a new regulator. But the Post Office will be able to keep more of its profits, rather than give them to the Treasury, and be allowed to buy overseas companies.

Mr Mandelson set out proposals to give the Post Office more commercial freedom after backing down from a partial privatisation of the organisation.

The Government had been considering a sale of 49 per cent of the organisation but had met with stiff resistance from the Communication Workers' Union and Labour backbenchers.

It is also likely to have been worried about a backlash from the public over concerns that rural post offices would be shut down.



Peers, including Lord Healey and Lord Rix, rehearse at the Players Theatre, London, for the End of the Peer Show to mark Lord Rix's retirement as chairman of Mencap

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE farce currently playing at the House of Lords temporarily moved to London's West End last night as peers put on a show to celebrate Lord Rix's retirement as chairman of Mencap.

In a cavalcade of silly costumes and accents, 14 peers performed songs, rimericks and magic tricks to raise money for the charity, which helps people with learning difficulties.

Lord Rix was the doyen of saucy Whitehall farceurs, and is now an esteemed member of the Upper House's crossbenches, is standing down this weekend after heading the charity for ten years.

Peers join the House of Laughs

Among those performing in the one-off *End of the Peer Show* before an audience of 250 at the Players' Theatre in central London, were Lord Healey, the former Labour Chancellor, who donned a false moustache, flat cap and brown mackintosh to recite *The Lion and Albert*.

The Lords Montague of Beaulieu, Gisborough and Geddes joined the flamboyant Marquess of Bath to sing Noel Coward's *Stately Homes of England*.

Lord Rix, 74, who once appeared in a farce topically entitled *Uproar in the House*, donned a bowler hat, and oversized suit and boots to declaim the tale of Bessie's Boil.

ing disabilities in the UK have been helped by the charity.

He said: "I have loved my time at Mencap, and am delighted by the way that the organisation is continuing to develop. There is still a long way to go before people with learning difficulties are treated equally but we are certainly making positive steps towards that day."

and Chopin on the piano. Guests later danced to Lord Colwyn and his jazz band.

Lord Rix, who has been involved in Mencap for more than 40 years, will become the charity's president on his retirement. It is estimated that 1.2 million people with learning

Yeltsin back in charge

Boris Yeltsin emerged from hospital, sacked four members of his administration and returned to his sick bed to continue recuperating from pneumonia. He also brought the Justice Ministry under his control.

Employers face big charges for workplace car parking

ALL employers will be charged for providing workplace parking spaces under plans being announced today to tackle traffic congestion.

Aitken for trial

Jonathan Aitken, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, was committed for trial on charges of perjury and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

Cheetah appeal

There are no more than 10,000 cheetahs left in the wild and one of the causes covered by *The Times* Christmas appeal is for the Serengeti Cheetah Project.

Gee Whiz, Noddy's a sensation in the US

Although many might think his nonsense friend Big Ears would keep him in check, fame has already begun to turn Noddy's blue hat. Instead of his usual "I say", he now exclaims "Gee Whiz".

Weeks, *Noddy's* ratings are exceeding those of long-established shows such as *Sesame Street*.

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Tories squeak and splutter over Our Peter's postal order

About the time yesterday when in most of Britain the second post is being delivered, the Industry Secretary stalked up the Commons path to deliver his plans for the Post Office.

Redwood. Responding to Mandelson, appraising Mandelson, even interpreting Mandelson, has become near-impossible.



MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

phors, absurd claims and bare-faced fibs, served to distance the man from the message: he just doesn't give a toss what we think and he wants us to know it.

tone. "The British Post Office" said Mandelson, "has been demanding changes to its own organisation for years and years, but without anyone in Government, until now, prepared to act."

knaw, that the last Government kept trying to restructure the Post Office, and were thwarted by a blocking alliance between the Labour Party and a handful of Tory rebels.

pled. "Everyone stands to be a winner from our reforms..." He sat down to await the usual rant from John Redwood, which Mr Mandelson waved away as though dealing with a wasp worrying the ladies at a picnic.

was all he said. In fact few if any of Redwood's questions were answered in the Statement, but - hey! - that's our Peter.

Aitken is sent for trial at the Old Bailey

By MICHAEL HORNSNELL

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, was yesterday committed for trial at the Old Bailey on charges of perjury and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

They are accused of signing witness statements for the High Court case knowing that they gave a false account, in that they said Mrs Aitken and their daughter, Victoria, 18, were in Paris prior to travelling to Geneva on September 17, 1993, and while there stayed at Mr Ayas's daughter's flat, and that on September 19 Mrs Aitken was in Paris and paid a sum of money in respect of a bill incurred by Mr Aitken at the hotel.

made and signed a witness statement dated March 10, 1997, which gave a false version of events, namely that Mrs Aitken was in Paris and on September 19, 1993, had paid FF4,257 in respect of his Riz bill.



The Rev Dr John Brown, who died yesterday, with Gordon, one of his three sons

Brown's father dies in snow

By GILLIAN HARRIS SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN cancelled his official engagements as Chancellor and travelled to Scotland yesterday after learning that his father had collapsed and died in the snow near his home.

trip to buy a newspaper when he collapsed near the village of Insh in Aberdeenshire.

tion debate on taxation in the House of Commons tomorrow or attend the European finance ministers' meeting in Vienna at the weekend.

Aid and trade do not mix, says Short

By ROLAND WATSON POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CLARE SHORT delivered a vigorous defence of her aid policy last night after being criticised for refusing to lobby for British business while visiting China.

Twenty-four hours after saying she "didn't bother" to help British firms while on the trip, she was guest speaker of the Export Times' Exporter of the Year awards at the Savoy Hotel.

Ministers crusade on duty free

The Government launched a crusade to save duty-free sales yesterday, raising eyebrows in Brussels with a claim that for the British public, cheap alcohol and cigarettes amounted to the most important issue facing Europe this year.

Officials from several continental states were incredulous that the Government believed the duty-free question to be more important to British voters than the big EU moves now under way, notably the launch of monetary union next month and the fight over Britain's rebate to the EU budget.

Liver transplant

Surgeons at the Crownwell Hospital in London have saved a woman's life by transplanting part of her daughter's liver, the first time the operation, involving two adults, has been carried out in Europe.

Royal vox pop

The Prince of Wales has called for people to give their views on genetically modified food. In the first online forum on his official website he invited responses as to whether GM crops are needed. His website is on http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk

Gay foster plan

A plan to welcome applications from gay couples as foster carers will be discussed today by Liverpool's social services committee.

High-tech fund

A £15.5 million fund to help British technology firms to develop alongside their Israeli counterparts will be announced today by the Government.

Killers guilty

Five men were convicted in Cape Town of the murder two years ago of a British woman, Julia Fairbanks-Smith, and her four-year-old daughter Emma. The dead woman's parents, from West Sussex, have asked for the heaviest possible sentence.

Gummer's belief

The former Agriculture Minister John Gummer has given written evidence to the BSE inquiry that he would not have told the public that beef was safe unless he had been prepared to eat it himself and give it to his children. He is to appear as a witness today.

IRA meets to discuss handing in weapons

By MARTIN FLETCHER CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA held a rare top-level army convention at a secret location in Co Cavan over the weekend, security sources disclosed last night.

New smear test could spot all at risk of cancer

By MARK HENDERSON

A REVOLUTIONARY new smear test that could make cervical cancer screening up to 100 per cent accurate has been developed by British scientists.

IRA meets to discuss handing in weapons

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How clones could be created

By MARK HENDERSON

How would scientists create cloned body parts? The cloning expert Patrick Dixon, author of The Genetic Revolution and Futurewise, explained the method accepted by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

nucleus from the adult cell into itself, and is fooled by the spark into believing it has been penetrated by a sperm. The egg divides rapidly, creating in vitro a perfect twin of the adult. It could be culled within 14 days for human tissue to be grown in culture in the laboratory.

them if cloning were legal. This country's laws prevent cloning embryos for anything other than research purposes, but both are opinions that could be pressed for by some scientists.

be grown - skin, bone marrow, and possibly sperm and eggs.

Advertisement for NEC computers. Includes headline 'WE INVEST MORE, YOU SPEND LESS', images of NEC computer monitors, and details for two models: NEC Direction SM-350B (£799) and NEC Direction SE-300C (£469). Includes a coupon to ring NEC Direct on 0870 0106322.

CPS is failing to try criminals, says coroner

A CORONER has condemned the Crown Prosecution Service for failing to bring anyone to trial for a spate of killings.

After handling four cases in short succession where the CPS ruled out any prosecutions, Paul Rose said they should be called "the Criminal Protection Society".

His outburst came after an inquest into the death of a 29-year-old man stabbed through the heart in what detectives describe as "an open and shut case". Peter McDonagh was found lying on the kitchen floor with multiple stab wounds received while his family said they were upstairs asleep. Police found one family member was fully clothed in bed, covered in blood which proved to be Mr McDonagh's and yet nobody was charged.

There had been complaints to the police from neighbours earlier in the evening about fighting and noise in the house in South London. When detectives asked the family about the incident they claimed to have seen or heard nothing.

After ruling that Mr McDonagh's death was unlawful killing, Mr Rose, the coroner for the Southern District of Greater London, criticised the CPS in his court at Croydon. He said: "The CPS is doing a disservice by failing to prosecute when it could do so."

He later added: "Coroner's courts are not the place to dispense justice, but too often late cases are dropping in my lap where there should be prosecutions heard in criminal courts. That way guilt or innocence can be established."

"This has happened four times in the last six months. I don't know what is going

Suspects in open and shut cases are not being brought to trial, reports Daniel McGrory

wrong, whether it is new personnel or lack of resources at the CPS, but I thought it was time to let rip. It is failing on its obligations to the public."

Mr Rose is engaged in heated correspondence with the agency over its conduct, and is asking it to review other cases. One involves the death of a man apprehended in a supermarket by security guards. They are alleged to have taken the man to an office where he was sat on and died.

The family of the deceased have asked for the case to be reopened. Mr Rose has written to the Attorney-General urging him to look at the matter again.

Another case troubling him involved a killing "of a domestic nature" where ten months after someone was charged on the matter was brought before Mr Rose, who was told by lawyers on the morning of the inquest that the CPS had dropped proceedings.

The fourth case is believed to involve whether a suicide had been helped to die. The coroner was dismayed that the CPS did not understand the "law of attempt". In addition, the CPS lost half the papers in the case.

One senior legal source said: "The question is not just

whether that person did assist in the suicide but whether they attempted to bring about that death and there appeared to be ample evidence they did and yet no charges were brought."

The CPS said last night that it was in correspondence with Mr Rose. A spokesman said: "In the McDonagh case we did take independent advice and that concurred with our solicitors that on the evidence we received there wasn't a realistic chance of getting a conviction."

Mr Rose's criticism came after *The Times* revealed that a woman who accused a man of rape, then saw his trial collapse because of a procedural error, is bringing a test case over the right to sue the CPS.

Tabitha Bryce, who dropped her right to anonymity, wants to challenge the immunity enjoyed by the CPS over the conduct of prosecutions. She is hoping to take the matter to the European Court of Human Rights.

Last year Dame Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, set up an inquiry into the way the CPS makes decisions in the most serious cases in which no charges are brought. It centred on the deaths of Shiji Lapite, a Nigerian asylum-seeker in Stoke Newington, North London; and Richard O'Brien, a 19-stone Irishman in Walworth, South London, after alleged struggles in the street with police.

Lawyers at the CPS last year also raised their own doubts about "the agency's ability to carry out professional obligations and serve the interests of justice" because of cuts in resources.



Zoe McDougall with her parents, Colin and Joanne, is well enough to go home with them

15oz baby makes big progress

BY GILLIAN HARRIS
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL aged four months who weighed 15oz when she was born 15 weeks early has become one of Britain's smallest surviving babies.

Zoe McDougall, who now weighs 6lb 2oz, spent her first 3½ months in an incubator swathed in a nappy because her parents could not find clothes small enough.

Last week, doctors who have monitored Zoe's progress at Simpson's Memorial Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, since she was born by Caesarean section on July 31, decided she was well enough to go home to Addiewell, West Lothian, with her parents, Joanne, 26, and Colin, 28.

Mrs McDougall, who suffered from severe pre-eclampsia during her pregnancy, said yesterday: "When I first saw how small Zoe was I was really upset. It was quite traumatic. The doctors took her straight to an incubator and told us the survival rate for babies that small was low."

"But Zoe was a little fighter and battled through. We named her Zoe because we thought it was a pretty name, but we later found out it means life, which was quite appropriate."

According to *The Guinness Book of Records*, Britain's smallest surviving baby was Marian Taggart, who weighed 10oz when she was born on Tyneside in 1938.

Grandson of ex-PM jailed for drug deal

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A GRANDSON of Harold Macmillan, the former Prime Minister, was jailed for four years yesterday after being caught with cannabis worth more than £300,000.

Patrick Heath, 37, said he was forced to take part in the deal to repay a debt to a drugs dealer incurred to finance his heroin addiction.

The deal was foiled when police caught Heath unloading 100kg of cannabis, concealed in bottles of shampoo, from a van outside his home in Redfield, Bristol.

Bristol Crown Court was told that Heath, the adopted son of the late Earl of Stockton's daughter Sarah, drifted into the drugs sub-culture after a troubled childhood.

In his defence, Heath said that Simon Cook, who had hired the van, was his regular heroin supplier and he owed him £1,500. When Cook could not afford to pay, a criminal "farther up the chain" took on the debt.

He told the court that this man, who he claimed to be too scared to name, threatened him with violence if he did not carry the drugs.

Heath initially denied attempting to supply 100kg of cannabis but changed his plea when the judge ruled that he could not use the defence that he had been coerced. He has previous drug convictions. In 1994 he was convicted in India of supplying 5kg of cannabis.

GP faces court over murder charges

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A FAMILY doctor charged with murdering eight patients appeared before magistrates yesterday hours after police exhumed another body.

Officers moved into Dukinfield Cemetery, near Manchester, in the early hours for the remains of Sarah Ashworth, who was 75 when she died five years ago. It was the tenth exhumation. Mrs Ashworth, a widow, had been a company director along with her late husband, Frank.

She was a patient of Dr Shipman, 52, who runs a fundholding practice in Hyde's main shopping street in Tameside.

Magistrates in Tameside later committed Dr Shipman for trial to Preston Crown Court accused of killing three women: Bianka Pomfret, 49, Winifred Mellor and Joan Melia, both 73.

The GP has already been committed for trial on a charge of murdering Kathleen Grundy, 81, a former Hyde mayoress, and forging her will in order to benefit from her £300,000 estate.

Dr Shipman will appear at Liverpool Crown Court today for a plea and directions in which a judge is expected to set a date for the trial on these charges.

He was also remanded until January 4 to appear before magistrates on charges of murdering Ivy Lomas, 63, Marie Quinn, 67, Jean Lilley, 59, and Irene Turner, 67.

Freedom for murderer who escaped noose

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A MURDERER who escaped execution and went on to kill a second time was set free yesterday after 40 years in prison.

Donald Forbes, 63, was released on licence from an open prison despite a campaign by his victims' families to keep him inside. It is understood that he will share a flat in Greenock with his second wife, Alison Grierson, 42, whom he married while in jail.

Forbes was sentenced to life imprisonment twice and was once described as a psychopath by a psychiatrist. His release was recommended by the Parole Board and approved by Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary.

He is now serving his life sentence in the community and will be supervised by a social worker. He will return to prison if he reoffends.

Forbes was sentenced to hang in 1958 for the murder of Allan Fisher, 66, a nightwatchman at a Granton fish factory, who was bludgeoned to death and robbed.

Two weeks before the execution Forbes was granted leave to marry his pregnant girlfriend, Rita McLean, 21. The prison wedding inspired a wave of sympathy which led the Scottish Secretary at the time, John MacLay, to commute the sentence to life imprisonment. The baby died and the couple separated within a year. Forbes was released

on parole in 1970 but within two months had stabbed to death Charlie Gilroy, 22, and seriously injured his brother, Robert, in a pub brawl in Edinburgh. He was jailed for life for a second time. He made several escape attempts, one of which was briefly successful. In 1980 he was given permission to marry his second wife.

For the past two years he has been at Penninghame open prison, near Newton Stewart, and has had 48-hour leaves in preparation for his release. It is understood that he is now quite frail and suffers from a heart complaint.

Two years ago the Victims of Crime Trust, in London, presented a petition with 400,000 signatures to Downing Street and Buckingham Palace in protest at moves to free Forbes. William Gilroy, 61, brother of his second victim, and Janet Cameron, great-niece of Forbes's first victim, said that the murderer should never be freed.

The campaign to keep him in jail was backed by Roseanna Cunningham, the Scottish National Party's crime spokeswoman. "After one murder conviction there may have been an argument for releasing this man after such a long sentence, but there have been two murder convictions. I don't think he has proved he can be trusted in the wider world," she said.

Hacker broke into 'secure' Crimestoppers phone line

BY PAUL WILKINSON

AN UNEMPLOYED man gained access to confidential information on a police Crimestoppers phone line in order to demonstrate that the system was not secure, a court was told yesterday.

Malcolm Girling, 47, was charged with dropping on 52 messages offering information on a variety of crimes from drug-dealing to theft. Later he demonstrated to reporters how he could listen in to the personal voicemail of a policewoman at her office.

Yesterday Girling, 47, from Elloughton, near Hull, admitted three charges brought under the Compu-

ter Misuse Act. He told magistrates at Brough in East Riding that he had accidentally discovered how to eavesdrop on computer messaging services and had wanted to draw attention to their poor security. He was fined a total of £300 and ordered to pay £150 costs.

The court was told that Girling had gained access to the computer controlling the Crimestoppers voicemail system in April. Six days later he invited reporters from the *News of the World* to his home to demonstrate how he had done it. On May 8 he gained unauthorised access

to the West Yorkshire Police voicemail system. He was arrested after the newspaper contacted the police.

Richard Woolfall, for Girling, said: "Girling believes that the police have shot the messenger who has tried to help them. He has exposed a flaw in the security and informed them. He did not use the information for his own benefit. At the very least he has alerted the police to the problem."

Afterwards Detective Constable Barrie Jeffrey, of the Crimestoppers unit, said that the system had since been secured.

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Hunger striker says he still hopes to live

By Dominic Kennedy

THE hunger striker Barry Horne is mentally alert and very frightened of dying, according to Nancy Phipps, an old friend who spent 20 minutes alone with him in York District Hospital at the weekend.

Mrs Phipps's daughter, Jill, was hailed as Britain's first animal rights martyr in 1995 when she died under a lorry while protesting at live animal exports from Coventry airport. Brigitte Bardot acclaimed her as the "Joan of Arc of little calves".

Horne, who is expected to die within the week, is demanding that Labour implement a pre-election commitment to support a Royal Commission on vivisection. He has spent 63 days without food. He made a fellow activist Alison Lawson, based in Coventry, his next of kin to ensure that neither of his former wives can order doctors to save his life when he loses consciousness.

Mrs Phipps said: "We have tried so many times to talk him out of it. He thought the



Horne and Nancy Phipps: his spirit was strong, she said

Government would grant a Royal Commission. He didn't think they would let him die. As time goes on he realises.

"He looked terrible. His mind was as bright as ever. His spirit was as strong as ever. His love of life and his sense of humour and everything is still intact. He was lucid, he was cheerful.

"We had an emotional farewell and lots of hugs and he said 'Nancy, I am still hoping. I said we are all still hoping and we are sending positive thoughts. The pain he is suffering

on behalf of the animals is incredible. To me he is so brave because he spent hours and hours on his own, cold. He must be very frightened by now. I used to say to him, 'I don't want you to die'. He said, 'It will be a victory for the animals.'

"He is getting letters from the general public who are sympathetic and think he is wonderful. That cheered him up so much, bless him."

She dismissed reports that animal activists would kill ten vivisectionists to avenge his

death as false propaganda. "It is the dirty tricks brigade," she said, "to divert attention from all the sympathy that Barry is getting."

Horne, from Northampton, is part of a group of Midlands animal activists who include most of the Phipps family, as well as his chosen next-of-kin, Ms Lawson.

Mrs Phipps first met Horne in Bedford Prison when he was among three animal rights activists arrested for raiding a chicken farm. The other men were being visited by their girlfriends, and Mrs Phipps decided to visit Horne so he was not alone. He was arrested in Bristol in 1996 trying to plant fire bombs, and jailed for 18 years for arson and attempted arson.

Ten thousand scientists and animal researchers have been put on alert by the Research Defence Society in case of an upsurge of violence if Horne dies. Other warnings have been sent to 100 pharmaceutical companies, universities and government departments which are also involved in medical research.

Chorus of praise for the unsung art heroes

SIX "unsung heroes" of the arts were yesterday presented with £20,000 each by Ffion Jenkins, wife of the Conservative leader, William Hague.

Ms Jenkins, who made the inaugural Creative Britain awards, sponsored by Prudential, in her role as operations director of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, said the awards were about praising those unrecognised by other major prizes.

"This is about giving all due credit to the unsung heroes. These are people who have dedicated their lives to their individual organisations and displayed an enormous talent and genius for what they do."

One of the winners was the Chicken Shed Theatre, north London, which hosted the event. The others were Mark Stephenson, for his London Musical group; David Boyd of the Beat Initiative in Belfast; Canon Bill Hall, senior chaplain to arts and recreation in the North East; Nadine Senior of the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Yorkshire; and Robert Woolf of the Wordsworth Trust.



Ffion Jenkins: award winners display genius, she said

Couple jailed for cat farm assault

By Helen Johnstone

A HUSBAND and wife were jailed yesterday for their involvement in a battle with riot police during a demonstration at a cat breeding farm targeted by animal rights protesters.

Thomas and Anna Monaghan, who have three children, attacked police with stones and tried to tear down a 12ft high perimeter fence during the 1,000-strong protest at Hillgrove Farm, Witney, Oxfordshire, where cats are bred for scientific research.

The animal rights activists, from Hove, East Sussex, were jailed for 12 months and four months respectively at Oxford Crown Court after they admitted a single charge of violent disorder at an earlier hearing.

The court was told that Thomas Monaghan, 41, was captured on police video hurling stones, making violent gestures towards police and hitting police riot shields with a lump of wood; and trying to tear down the fence at the farm in April. Mrs Monaghan, 49, was seen hurling a missile over the fence at police.



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Lawyer wins case over police forgery

A SOLICITOR arrested and wrongly accused of perverting the course of justice by a corrupt police officer was awarded £35,500 damages against the Metropolitan Police yesterday (Joanna Sale-writes).

Julia O'Brien, who used to run her own practice in North London, was accused of smuggling letters out of Brixton prison from a client on remand and sending them to a prosecution witness to intimidate him.

Central London County Court was told that the letters had been forged by Detective Inspector Robert Thomas in

an effort to bolster the case against Miss O'Brien's client, a convicted rapist awaiting trial for two further sex offences.

Mr Thomas arrested Miss O'Brien in front of her colleagues at her practice in 1987. She was held at Islington Police Station for three hours and questioned before being released without charge. Miss O'Brien, 53, was told three months later the case was being dropped. She complained to the Police Complaints Authority, which exonerated Mr Thomas, who retired last year on a full police pension.

Cheetah Project Appeal

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Media scrabble to reach man buried alive

Peter Foster on the strange case of a fundraiser who went down to the pub three months ago

THE Japanese taste for watching members of the public suffer on television has opened an unlikely avenue to media stardom for an unemployed British man attempting to beat the world record for being buried alive.

Geoff Smith, who yesterday completed his 101st day in a 7ft by 3ft coffin six feet under the beer garden of a pub in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, is fast becoming buried by lucrative offers from Far Eastern television companies.

One Japanese media organi-

sation has offered Mr Smith a new Toyota car if he will grant them an exclusive interview, while another is understood to have paid £1,000 to speak to the father of three who communicates with outside world through a 6ft long tube.

On Boxing Day Mr Smith, who is raising money for the RSPCA, will also appear on the massively popular *The Wide Show*, hosted by the Far Eastern comedian Akhiro Yoshimura. He will compete for star billing with a man from Thailand who is spend-

ing 200 days in a tree. Mr Smith's feat of endurance may strike a chord with Japanese fans of the 1980s television programme of that name in which students were tortured on screen. At its height *Endurance* captured millions of viewers who watched volunteers suffer a variety of inventive tortures including being dragged by elephants over sharp stones, smeared with banana and shut inside a cage of orange-uns, and being hung upside down over a smoking fire while Singapore cockroaches were stuffed down their trousers.

Television crews from all over the world, including Germany, Holland, Australia and America, have come to the Railway Inn in Mansfield in the hope of securing an exclusive with Mr Smith. But like all major stars the former Water Board worker has hired himself a hard-bargaining agent — in this case the pub landlord Spike Hughes.

Mr Hughes now spends most of his time negotiating contracts with foreign televi-



Ace in the hole: Geoff Smith, whose 6ft tube is his only link to the outside and reporters from around the world

sion companies to raise money for the RSPCA. "We've had calls from all over the world. We looked into hiring a PR firm to negotiate for us but decided to do it ourselves. Geoff is doing this all for a good cause and people will have to pay good money if they want to interview him," he said. The

inspiration for the record attempt came from Mr Smith's mother, Emma, who in 1968 stayed underground for 100 days on the seafloor at Skegness, Lincolnshire. At the time she, too, attracted great attention from newsmen all over the world but her record was beaten in the early 1980s by an

American who lasted 141 days. Mr Smith, 37, is aiming to reclaim the record by lasting for 150 days.

His only entertainments are a 4in television, conversation with pub regulars and the public who pay £1 a time and, possibly the highlight for Mr Smith, the attentions of local

girls who have taken to flashing their breasts at him down his supply tube.

Yesterday Mr Smith, who was unable to talk to *The Times*, which never pays for interviews, was reported to be alive and well and still determined to recapture his mother's world record.



Mr Smith's living quarters for the past 101 days

Disturbed architect killed wife he thought was a witch

BY SIMON DE BRUELLES

AN ARCHITECT described as "gentle and creative" killed his wife after becoming convinced that she was a witch who wanted to steal his soul. Maxwell Young, 54, suffered from a transient psychiatric disorder, which meant that 99 per cent of the time he was perfectly normal. Exeter Crown Court was told. He had had two episodes of mental illness, at the ages of 21 and 40, but the problem did not recur again until late last year. Young and his wife, Lyn-

da, had met at Newcastle University and had been married for more than 30 years.

They had a comfortable lifestyle at their cottage at Trewen in Cornwall. Friends said that they rarely argued and spent a lot of time walking in the Cornish countryside collecting wild flowers. But Young became convinced that a sexual act he had performed with his wife six years before had turned her against him.

Mrs Young, 53, a teacher, realised her husband needed help and was driving with him to see their family

doctor when he turned off to Dartmoor. Young stopped at a beauty spot, threw her spectacles out of the car and tried to strangle her with the string of his anorak. He then stabbed her with a knife kept in the car for picnics before killing her with a granite boulder.

After driving to one of the highest points on Dartmoor he slashed his wrists, but he was found by police and treated in hospital.

Mr Justice Sedley ordered Young to be detained indefinitely at a medium security mental hospital after he

was found not guilty of murder by reason of insanity. "This is not a case for punishment. If it were, then no punishment could possibly be as dreadful as the one you are already undergoing," the judge told him.

"You are in better mental health now and you are aware of what you have done. You know you killed the wife you loved and the wife who loved you."

Angela Roundfield, a consultant psychiatrist at St Lawrence Hospital, Bodmin, said: "On the morning of the killing Young became fright-

ened and said he realised his wife was a witch. He thought she wanted to take his immortal soul. He heard her talking about collecting wildflowers and thought she was also going to collect the souls of relatives.

"He told me he looked at her and could see her eyes had become red. He likened it to the Tory posters of Tony Blair when they depicted him as the devil. These delusions grew from his depression and feelings of worthlessness and guilt."

After the hearing the couple's two sons, Martin, 28, and Matthew, 27,

said they did not want to comment but Detective Inspector Bob Brown, who handled the inquiry, said: "The police see this case in the same way as the family. It is an absolute tragedy for them on two counts. They have lost their mother and now they have to suffer the problems of their father's mental health."

"From all our inquiries Mr and Mrs Young have emerged as a loving, caring family and the sort of people who, other than in these exceptional circumstances, would never come into contact with the police."

New fraud squads to fight NHS swindlers

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TEAM of specialist investigators is being created in the National Health Service to clamp down on fraud by staff and patients.

Nobody knows how much fraud costs the NHS, but it is estimated that prescription swindles come to at least £150 million a year. The new strategy aims to reduce that amount by more than half over the next four years.

Jack Gee, head of the new Directorate of Counter-Fraud Services, has already discovered a range of ways in which the NHS has been cheated. The Health Department is to spend £4 million on building regional teams of investigators, some of whom will work under cover.

Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, said that an attempt would be made to measure the extent of fraud accurately for the first time. "The overwhelming majority of patients and professionals would not dream of stealing from the NHS."

"But a small minority are doing just that. Every time they commit fraud, patient care suffers. Those who are exploiting the system are not only cheating taxpayers, they are depriving patients of the care they need."

Frauds have included:
□ a GP who issued prescriptions worth more than £700,000 for residential home patients

□ a dentist who claimed £212,000 over two years by submitting claims for patients who did not exist

□ an optician who claimed for eye tests and the supply of glasses to dead patients

□ a pharmacist who conspired with a GP to claim reimbursements for prescriptions worth more than £1 million

□ a senior hospital registrar who made £46,000 over five years with falsified timesheets

□ a patient who falsely claimed more than £2,500 a year in travel expenses to an out-patient clinic.



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Glass design offers showcase for the London Mayor

Marcus Binney on Sir Norman Foster's spectacular plan for housing the capital's assembly

DESIGNS by Sir Norman Foster for the home of the new Greater London authority were unveiled yesterday. They promise the most spectacular structure of his career. His version of the new assembly and mayor's office stands on the edge of the Thames, glinting like a giant multi-faceted diamond, opposite the Tower of London. If chosen, the building will unquestionably become one of London's premier landmarks. Ken Shuttleworth, Sir Norman's partner, who is in charge of the project, said: "The building will provide incredible panoramas, both from the assembly chamber on the entrance floor and the mayor's office at the top. It leans back from the water to avoid casting a shadow over the river."

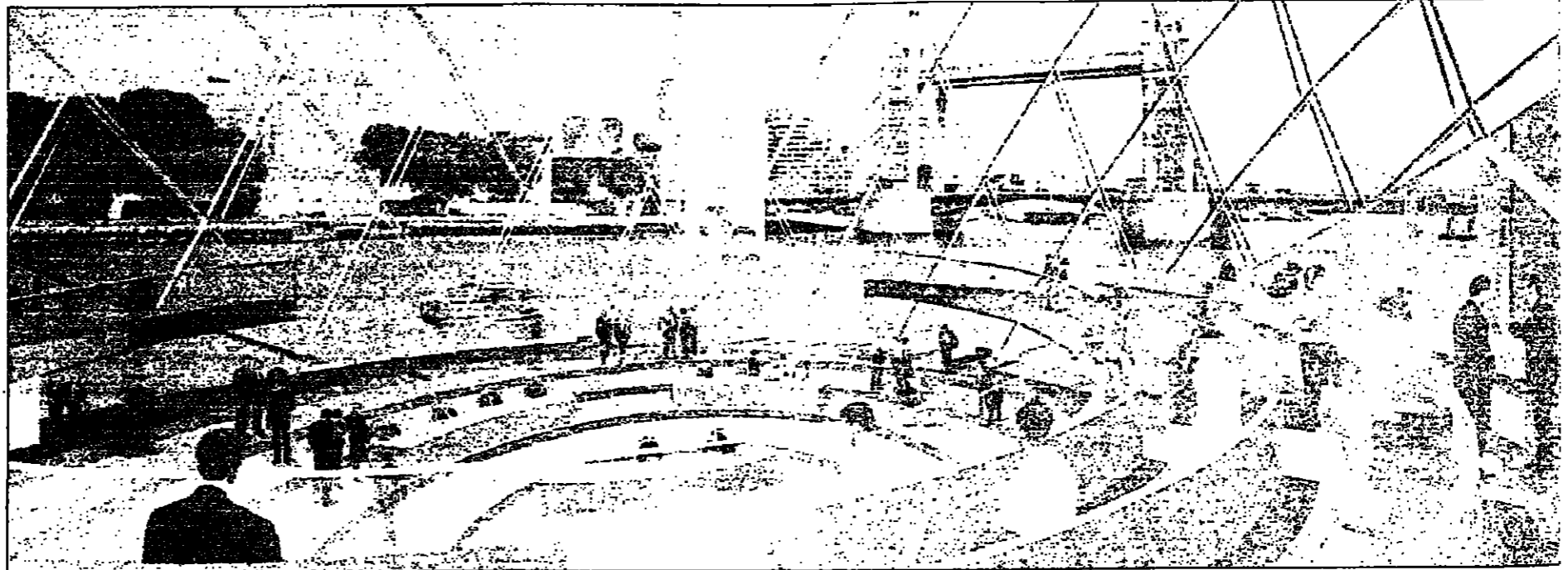
Mr Shuttleworth compared the building to the layers of an onion: the assembly will be set between inner and outer layers of glass and rise, through eight storeys, to narrow dramatically to the top. It is a shape that Sir Norman claims

will provide perfect acoustics. The inner layer of glass will stop noise travelling to the offices on galleries above.

Kevin McGovern, the managing director of Markborough, the owners of the 13-acre site between London Bridge station and Tower Bridge, said: "We are offering a hugely bespoke building for rent no higher than for a standard commercial office building. We would spend £40 million on the shell and core: fitting out the chamber and mayor's office would come on top."

He expects the presence of the mayor's office and assembly to lift London Bridge City, a site that has been vacant for ten years, out of the doldrums. Markborough would be providing 200,000 square feet of floorspace for the authority but hopes, as a result, to obtain pre-lets enabling it to build a further 2.7 million square feet of shops, offices and a hotel.

Mr McGovern said: "Southwark Council are very keen on the new employment our



The assembly chamber would be set between two layers of glass rising through eight storeys. Panoramic views of the Thames would include the Tower of London and Tower Bridge

scheme will provide. With a favourable decision soon, we could have the building ready by summer 2000, soon after the mayor is elected."

Londoners are being invited to vote on two competing designs. Sir Norman's and a spectacular conversion of the former Liverpool Victoria

Friendly Society building in Holborn by the avant-garde architect, Will Alsop, featured in *The Times* on Saturday.

Nick Rainsford, the Minister for London, said: "This will be the most important public building in the capital for decades. Both schemes are remarkable. We will take a

15-year lease on the premises. We don't want to commit the new mayor for longer."

The key factor, the rent, remains to be negotiated between the two developers and the Government. Ministers will also have to look very carefully at the costings of two such adventurous designs.



Candidates fear Blair 'death kiss'

By Roland Watson, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR is to remain neutral in the contest for who will become Labour's candidate for the Mayor of London amid fears that his endorsement would be the kiss of death.

Downing Street has abandoned the idea of anointing one of the party's would-be mayors after the internal backlash against the "control freak" tendency of Number 10. The decision follows the rows over Downing Street's preference for Alun Michael to be the First Minister of Wales and the power exercised by party headquarters in the selection of candidates for next year's European elections.

It has led to resentment among Labour's rank and file and complaints that they are being ruled by leadership dictat rather than internal democracy.

One well-placed source said that for Mr Blair to back a nominee as the party's official candidate for mayor would be "perhaps the quickest way of ensuring that someone doesn't win". Another said that an endorsement from the top would be the "kiss of death".

The stance marks an extraordinary state of affairs for a party leader overwhelmingly elected to the post four years ago and who carried all before him in last year's general election. However, it is also a sign

of the extent to which Labour's grassroots feels taken for granted by Mr Blair's hierarchy.

In the first signs of a pact among the runners, Glenda Jackson, the Minister for London Transport, and the television producer Trevor Phillips are emerging as a possible "dream ticket" to campaign side by side. The camps have already floated the idea of teaming up with each other.

Mr Phillips has all but thrown his hat into the ring for the mayor's job. But few Labour MPs believe that he has a high enough profile in the party to be selected. Friends of the former head of current affairs at London Weekend Television believe that his manoeuvring is as much to do with putting down a marker for the deputy's role as it is a pitch for the top job.

The party shortlist is likely to include Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, and Pauline Green, the London North MEP and leader of the socialist group in the European Parliament.

Nick Rainsford, the Minister for London, and Heather Rabbatts, the chief executive of Lambeth Council, are also expected to enter the contest.

Some senior party figures would like Frank Dobson to stand. The Health Secretary is seen as one of the few party heavyweights who could beat off the challenge of Ken Livingstone. But since the selection mechanisms were agreed last month, which are expected to bar Mr Livingstone from making it on to the shortlist because of his rebellious past, it is argued there is less of an urgent need for Mr Dobson to get involved. He has also made clear that he wants to remain in the Cabinet.

Mr Blair has already taken the first steps back from the contest, suggesting he would like to see a business figure enter, as reported in *The Times* last month.



Phillips: possible dream ticket with Jackson

RSA proposes statue of Christ

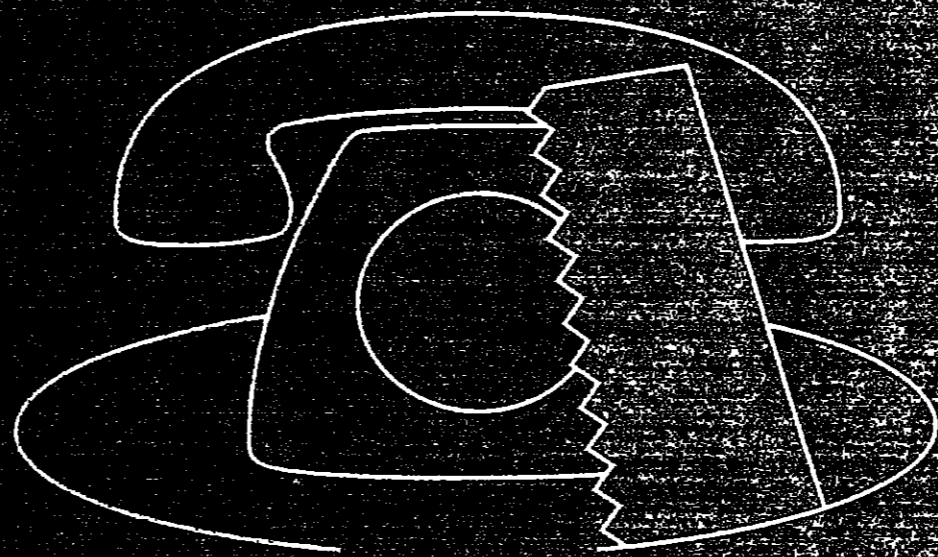
By Claudia Joseph

STATUES in Trafalgar Square will be joined by a bronze head sprouting a tree, an inverted plinth and a life-size Christ under plans by the Royal Society of Arts. After four years of consultation, the society announced yesterday that it is turning to avant-garde artists for a temporary exhibition on the square's empty fourth plinth.

If Westminster Council gives permission, a marble statue of Christ, entitled *Loco Homo*, will be erected on the 24th plinth next spring, commissioned from Mark Wallinger, 39. Nine months later, it would be replaced by an allegorical bronze, *Kingdoms of History*, by Bill Woodrow, 50,

featuring a toppled head, representing mankind, pressed down by a book, representing knowledge, bound together by the roots of a tree. In late 2000 there would be a translucent replica of the plinth by Rachel Whiteread, 35, the first woman Turner winner.

The £750,000 exhibition is being funded by the philanthropist Wilfred Cass, and works will later be displayed at Hat Hill Copse, on the Goodwood Estate. Public suggestions of statues of the Queen and Queen Mother were ruled out by Buckingham Palace, while others for Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela and Winnie the Pooh were deemed unsuitable.



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Clampdown on gazumpers will cost £400 a sale

By Rachel Kelly and Frances Gibb

THE cost of selling a home would rise by about £400 under government proposals to speed up house-buying and clamp down on gazumping.

The Government wants vendors to provide an information pack, including a survey of their property, for prospective buyers.

Hilary Armstrong, Housing Minister, said: "We need buyers and sellers to be better prepared from the start. Our package of measures should take the stress out of homebuying and will help to avoid miseries like gazumping and problems in chains."

Opponents said that the proposals, which do not apply to Scotland, would drive up costs unnecessarily and could reduce the supply of properties onto the market.

The measures may become compulsory through legislation. But Ed Nally, chairman of the Law Society's conveyancing and land law committee, said: "Including a survey in the seller's pack will cause needless expense for the seller, especially as it is unlikely to be relied on by a mortgage lender or buyer."

Mr Nally urged the Government to adopt the Law Society's conveyancing code, which includes a legal information form setting out essential information for buyers and what

the property price includes. The consultation paper published yesterday was drawn up after a survey commissioned by the Government of more than 2,000 buyers and property professionals. This found that in England and Wales it typically takes eight weeks from acceptance of an offer to exchange of contracts. Most problems occur in this time.

The proposals do not apply to Scotland, where the seller invites offers and a legally binding contract is created as soon as one is accepted. In Scotland it takes an average of only four weeks from acceptance of an offer to exchange.

The disadvantage of the speedier system is that 25 per cent of buyers have to move into temporary accommodation and a further 14 per cent have to arrange bridging loans because of timing differences between sales.

The consultation paper said that it was these practical difficulties, rather than legal reasons, which had stopped the Scottish system becoming common practice in Britain.

The proposed seller's information pack would include a survey, copies of title documents, replies to standard preliminary inquiries made on behalf of buyers, replies to searches made of the local authority, copies of any plan-

ning, listed building and building regulations consents and approvals; a draft contract; and guarantees for work carried out on the property.

The "homebuyer's survey", costing £300 to £400 for the average £60,000 house, would provide a three-page report on the structure and roof, giving warning of dry rot, for example. A full structural survey runs to about 60 pages and costs nearly twice as much but is not commissioned by most buyers.

The Government's main aim is to reduce the time between making an offer and completing a sale. Ministers want banks and building societies to make faster mortgage offers, aiming to process 80 per cent of mortgage applications within two working days. Lenders would be expected to supply a title document to the seller's solicitor or conveyancer within five working days of a request. Local authorities would be expected to reply to requests for a standard search within ten days.

The consultation paper suggests that insurers be encouraged to develop new policies to help to protect buyers and sellers from gazumping and gazundering.

Geoff Hoon, Minister of State at the Lord Chancellor's Department, which jointly



The Government's main aim is to cut the time from acceptance of an offer to exchange, which averages eight weeks against four weeks in Scotland

launched the paper yesterday, said ministers were undecided about whether to make the changes compulsory. "One of the areas we are consulting on is whether or not it will be sufficient to approach the changes on a voluntary basis, with all the players in the system bidding themselves to observe best practice."

The Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers said

the proposals would not guarantee faster house-buying. "They may even slow things down when people, worried about the results of the limited survey, commission a more detailed one," said Michael Day, of the society. Gazumping would not stop, Mr Day said, because ministers had not proposed a lock-in agreement between the buyer and seller. The Consumers' Association wel-

comed the proposals. Ashley Holmes, head of legal affairs, said: "They should make home-buying easier, quicker and hassle-free." He said that the seller's pack, including survey, would be a "price worth paying for added confidence and greater peace of mind". Comment on the proposals is invited until the end of March.

Home truths show world of difference

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

BUYING and selling a house in England and Wales is slower than in many other countries, but also cheaper, according to research behind the proposals.

It takes an average of eight weeks from acceptance of an offer to exchange of contract — the period most prone to delays. From offer to completion takes 10-12 weeks. In other countries, the average transaction period was nearly seven weeks, ranging up to 16 weeks in France.

Agreeing contract terms can take up to eight weeks in England and Wales, but no longer than four weeks elsewhere. The average times do not include the time taken for sellers to provide detailed disclosures, which in some countries is done up front

when the property is marketed — as is now proposed for England and Wales.

The main reasons why exchange of contract was so much quicker in other countries were: the use of conditional contracts, in which the buyer must obtain a mortgage within a set time; more involvement of agents in the pre-contract process; many inquiries made after the contract, with a right for the buyer to cancel if the search discloses problems; and detailed disclosures requirements imposed on the seller.

The typical cost to buyers in England and Wales is £1,060, and for sellers it is £1,400. In France, it is common for the buyer to bear all costs — including the estate agent's commission.

Leading article, page 19

THE ESTATE AGENT

David Parry is a 52-year-old partner of the estate agents Cluttons Daniel Smith in Maidstone, Kent, and has been selling houses for the past 34 years (Rachel Kelly writes). He broadly welcomed the changes outlined in the Government's consultation paper and says they will have far-reaching consequences for his business. "We have got to speed up the timescale between offer and exchange," he said. "These proposals put the emphasis and the cost on the seller. They need to be mandatory, not voluntary, to work, otherwise sellers won't spend the money. And buyers' offers should be made binding, akin to the Scottish method."

He said some agents might offer to pay for the cost of a homebuyer's survey. "This may mean that we get a two-tier market of agents, those who can afford to carry the extra costs of paying for a survey, and those who can't." He added that the extra work putting sellers' packs together would also lead to increased fees.



THE GAZUMPING VICTIM

Scott Waring, a 31-year-old advertising executive, was gazumped on a £220,000 flat in Holland Park, West London. He had offered the full asking price for the two-bedroom property, had his offer accepted and had instructed his solicitors. He was gazumped, not once, but twice. Both parties agreed on going to sealed bids. Mr Waring offered £245,100 and won the bidding. However, he decided to pull out of the deal, despite having incurred expenses of £300. "I felt I had been mucked around with," he said. "Ultimately, I was paying 10 per cent over the asking price. The agents had used our bid as an underbid to get a higher bid. It was a frustrating, stressful, painful experience."

He pointed out that although the proposed reforms would speed up the house-buying process, thereby reducing the possibility of a second buyer coming in with a higher bid, they did not make gazumping illegal.



THE SURVEYOR

Paddy Stewart-Morgan has worked in the area around Bath for 30 years. He welcomed the extra work that the proposals would mean for his profession (Rachel Kelly writes). In future, sellers will have to include surveys in the information packs they provide for buyers. "The problem with these proposals is that they are geared around the average property price of £67,000," he said. "But at the top of the market a homebuyer survey would not be enough. These are individual country properties, and most buyers would require a full structural survey which costs up to £1,500." The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors estimates that 2,000-3,000 more surveys would need to be trained to cope with the extra demand. Mr Stewart-Morgan said that the fact that surveyors could be liable to legal action from either the vendor or buyer might lead to higher charges as professional indemnity premiums soared.



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Girl, 16, challenges Sainsbury sacking

By A Correspondent

A 16-YEAR-OLD cashier sacked for allegedly helping fraudsters to steal luxury goods from a supermarket was yesterday believed to be the youngest person to take her case to an employment tribunal.

Celeste Shirley, an A-level student at Richmond College, London, is alleging wrongful dismissal and racial discrimination

after she was dismissed from her Saturday job at Sainsbury's in Chiswick, west London, in July.

Jason Galbraith, representing the supermarket, told the hearing in Woburn Place, London, that "on the balance of probability" Sainsbury's had acted correctly. He said the transactions involved three separate debit or credit cards and Sainsbury's discovered that each transac-

tion had been put through a till on which Ms Shirley was working, and that each time the credit card details had been entered manually. After investigating the matter, police decided to take no action.

But Jazi Khan, for Ms Shirley, said Sainsbury's investigation was flawed and that one of the stolen cards was also used at another Sainsbury's store. The tribunal was adjourned until April.

Code aims to make war games more civil

By Russell Jenkins

A SAFETY code for historical re-enactment societies that fire muzzle-loading cannon and muskets was published yesterday.

The guidance from the Health and Safety Executive, described as a "highway code" for Roundheads and Cavaliers, follows a series of accidents, including one earlier this year in Yorkshire in which a woman cannon operator lost her hand.

Members wearing uniforms and costumes depicting the English and American civil wars and the Napoleonic era were at Houghton Hall, in Lancashire, for the launch of the booklet. Her Majesty's explosive inspectors stood by as a uniformed gun crew fired a Napoleon muzzle-loading cannon according to the revised guidelines.

Gary Lang, an HSE explosives inspector, said that there were now about 30 societies putting on historical re-enactments, involving between 2,000 and 30,000 players. The booklet is aimed at getting across "best practice" and setting out legal requirements.

A spectator was injured two years ago in Humberstone when a cannon's powder keg exploded. Another member of the public was badly injured when an artillery piece was fired at close range.

Inspector Ken Lane, explosives liaison officer for West Yorkshire Police, said: "Although these accidents do not occur in great numbers, when they do happen they cause serious injury."

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Satellites spot volcano ready to erupt

Nick Nuttall on a breakthrough that could lead to the development of a global early warning system

A VOLCANIC eruption has been successfully predicted with the use of satellites. Researchers disclosed yesterday that they had detected the impending eruption of Popocatepetl in Guatemala, a week before it began.

The team, using satellites with infra-red detectors, picked up a heat signal on May 13 indicating that hot magma was bubbling towards the surface. The volcano erupted on May 20 sending an ash cloud over Guatemala City and the airport 13 miles away. Luke Flynn, a volcanologist at the University of Hawaii, told a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco yesterday: "We've never had a way to remotely monitor volcanoes for impending eruptions before."

Andrew Harris, based at the Department of Earth Sciences at the Open University in Mil-

ton Keynes, who was a member of the team, said: "We saw it coming from space. To date this has not happened before."

The breakthrough, by British and American scientists, may lead to the establishment of a worldwide automatic forecasting system for the 600 active volcanoes and many others considered to be potentially active.

The team also detected the eruption of a volcano in the remote Galapagos islands three hours before it began on September 15. The early warning gave experts on the ground time to move wildlife. The signals were picked up from the satellites by Chris Okubo, also of the University of Hawaii.

The team also spotted the eruption of Popocatepetl, near Mexico City, from space. The satellites detected a moderate eruption on the morning of November 24 this year. Local

ground-based teams recorded the same event and sounded the alarm one minute earlier. But many parts of the world where volcanoes could burst into life are too treacherous to have trained staff in place. Dr Harris said: "Some places are just too poor and have too many volcanoes."

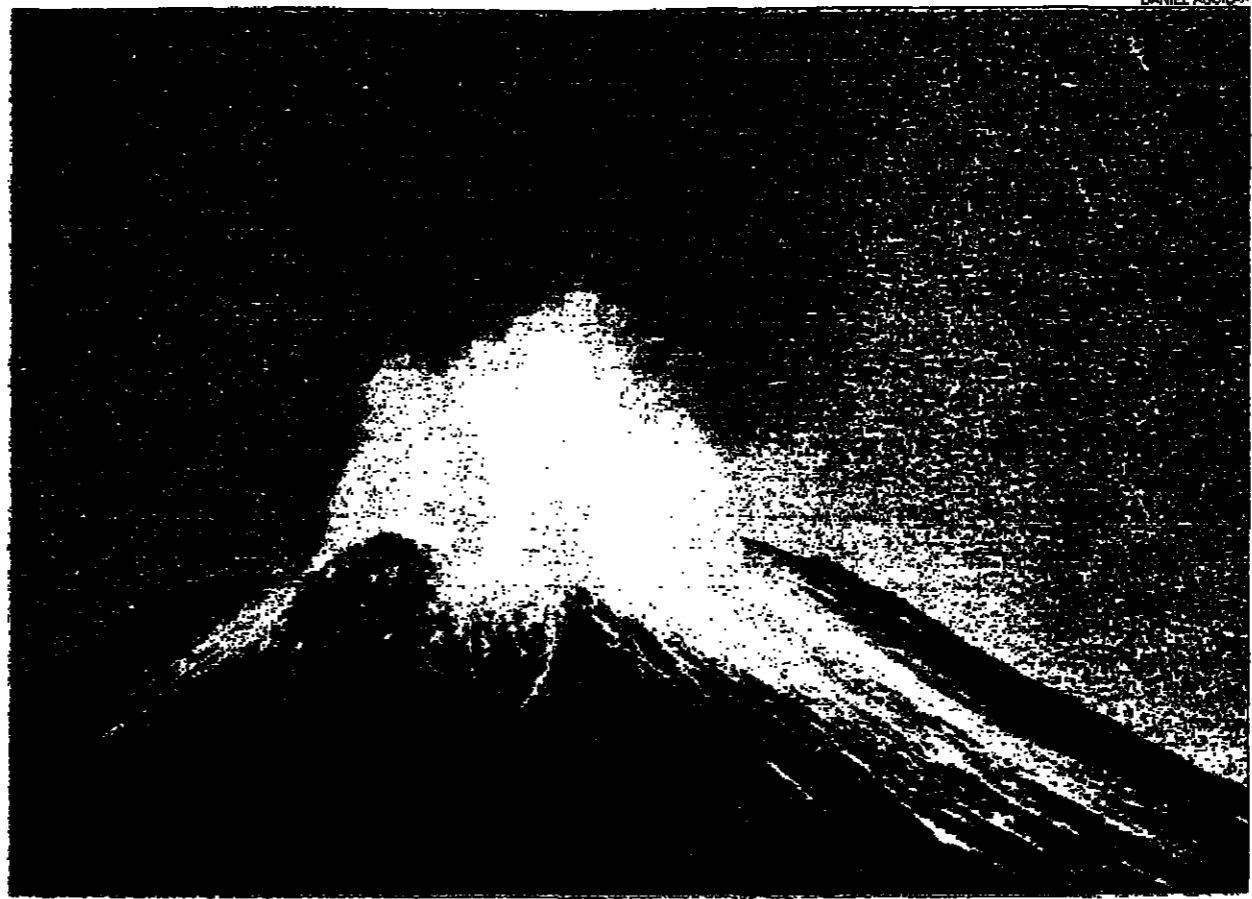
The satellite system, even if it spots an eruption only as it occurs, may give emergency services vital hours or days to get people cleared from an impending lava flow.

The breakthrough has been made possible by the recent launch of two geostationary satellites owned by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The craft can provide images of a given volcano or area of land every 15 minutes. Recent computer developments mean that the images can be rapidly analysed for hot spots. The researchers are posting the results on the University of Hawaii's Hot Spot Image Internet site.

Dr Harris said that about seven satellites, able to see heat in the right waveband, would be needed to create a global volcano early-warning system. "At the moment we are only really covering the Americas and the Caribbean."

About 360 million people live on or near dangerous volcanoes, from Etna in Sicily to Mount St Helens in Washington State. In recent years volcanoes have killed about 25,000 people.

Aircraft are also at risk. In



A time exposure showing the eruption of Popocatepetl in Mexico last month after it was detected by satellites

1982 a British Airways Boeing 747 nearly fell from the sky over Java after volcanic dust got into the jet engines.

The quest for an early warning system for volcanic eruptions has been given more urgency after indications that rising sea levels because of global warming may make volcanoes more active.

Bill McGuire, of University College London, and his col-

leagues have found that 12,000 years ago, when sea levels rose by 38ft in two centuries, volcanic activity surged. Rising sea levels trigger landslips and weaken the rock, releasing pressure, they suspect.

Some researchers have tried to develop early warning systems that pick up microquakes inside a grumbling volcano. Others have been developing systems that detect land

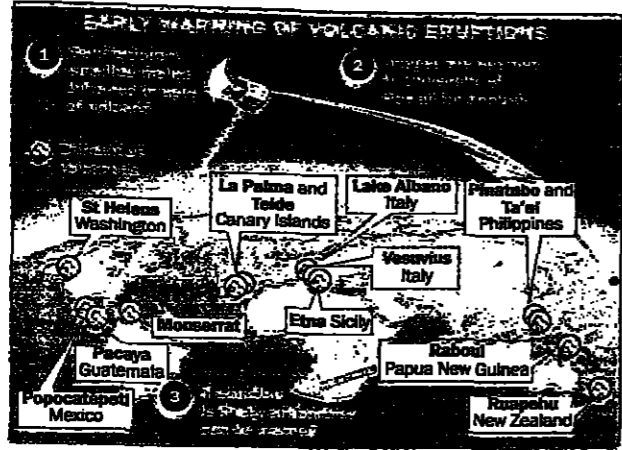
movement and bulges on the Earth's surface in advance of an eruption.

John Murray, also of the Open University, has placed reflectors on Mount Etna that bounce radar beams back to satellites. Any movements caused by an impending eruption would be automatically detected.

Dr Murray said that he believed several different tech-

niques would be needed for a truly accurate early warning system.

"No one method will be 100 per cent reliable. Seismic activity is good on a scale of a few days, and the movement of the ground may give you a warning months in advance. Detecting heat may give you an early warning a few hours or days in advance that the eruption is about to happen," he said.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Drug raid police make 70 arrests

More than 70 suspected drug dealers were arrested and large quantities of heroin seized after a three-day operation involving more than 800 officers from Lothian and Borders Police. They raided nearly 100 houses and also seized weapons, cash, stolen property and other illegal drugs and drug-using material.

Police said that by yesterday morning they had made 71 arrests as well as "significant recoveries" of heroin, cocaine, LSD, cannabis, amphetamines and Ecstasy across the force area.

Crash damages

The High Court ordered a man jailed for causing death by dangerous driving to pay £35,000 to his victim's family. Justin Carroll killed Richard Maher in Essex in 1993. Mr Maher's wife, Deborah, had a son five months later.

Major's new role

John Major has become president of the National Asthma Campaign, spurred by memories of the distress the illness caused his mother. Mr Major hopes to bring influential people together to raise funds and raise the charity's profile.

Boy skier dies

A 14-year-old boy injured on an artificial ski slope on Saturday has died. Antonio Dispenza was taken to John Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford after he crashed into safety netting at the Wycombe Summit Ski Centre in Buckinghamshire.

Bad back payout

A nurse who injured her back while trying to support an unconscious patient won £80,600 damages at the High Court. Phaedra Spillet, 33, made the claim against her employer, Odeas NHS Trust in Bexley, southeast London.

Special branch

A gang of Christmas tree thieves were caught by police who followed a pine needle trail. Three people were arrested after 13 trees — one decorated — were found at a house in Worthington, Cumbria, 100yds from the scene of the theft.

Prickly patients show lust for life

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

INJURED or weak hedgehogs released into the wild after convalescing in captivity stand an excellent chance of survival, scientists have found.

Many perform heroic feats of long-distance travel after being released: one covered more than three miles on Jersey; two others swam across the River Stour in Devon. Even though many have little or no experience of life in the wild, nearly all adapt quickly.

Hedgehogs make up 20 per cent of the wildlife casualties treated annually by the RSPCA. Thousands of others are taken in by individual carers. Pat Morris,

senior lecturer in zoology at Royal Holloway College, University of London, who led the research team, said yesterday: "Our findings show that rehabilitating hedgehogs, contrary to what some have claimed, is a very worthwhile exercise."

A report on the research in the latest issue of *The Veterinary Record* describes the survival rate among rehabilitated hedgehogs as "very high, compared with, for example, the minimal success of oiled seabirds after they have been cleaned".

For the research, 33 rehabilitated hedgehogs were released on Jersey and in Devon and Suffolk. Twenty-five were juveniles that had never lived alone, never had to find their own food or, in some cases, never ventured outside a cage. Each

hedgehog had a tiny transmitter glued to its spines, enabling its movements to be tracked.

Thirty survived for three weeks, at least 23 for four or five weeks and 17 were known to be alive after seven weeks. Others were probably still alive but had moved out of radio range or shed their transmitters.

Three of the hedgehogs were killed by traffic and three others were eaten by badgers.

The hedgehog, *Erynaeus europaeus*, is still plentiful, with an estimated pre-breeding population of about 1.5 million. If juveniles survive their first winter they can expect to live for three or four years.

Rider took tot of sheep dip

By GILLIAN HARRIS
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A HUNT official who drank sheep dip instead of whisky after a friend confused the bottles was recovering in intensive care yesterday.

Raymond Shiels swallowed a mouthful of the brown liquid proffered as Jed Forest Hunt passed through the Borders town of Jedburgh on Saturday.

He had a series of violent convulsions and fell from his horse. His wife Moira, who had been following on horseback, found him writing in a lane. At Borders General Hos-

pital his heart, lungs, liver and kidneys stopped working and he was put on a life-support machine while doctors established what he had drunk.

Mrs Shiels said yesterday: "There were about 30 of us waiting while the huntmen and hounds were searching

for a fox. Raymond took a drink and immediately spat it out but he must have swallowed a little. After about ten minutes it was obvious he wasn't well. He became increasingly ill and seemed to be hallucinating."

Doctors who treated Mr Shiels, a farmer and National

Hunt trainer, said that he would probably have died if he had swallowed more of the poison. Sheep dip is a chemical form of organophosphate derived from nerve gas, which attacks the central nervous system.

The drink came from Robin Grievie, a shepherd. Mr Shiels's father, Fraser, said: "The lad was terribly upset. I think he carried the sheep dip in a bottle in his Land Rover rather than carry it in a big container. Raymond knew the chap very well and was sure it was not intentional." Police are taking no action.

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THE BILL

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Labour to keep right to select in second chamber

THE Government is to stamp on the option of a wholly-elected second chamber when it announces a royal commission on the reform of the House of Lords next month.

In a move both to underline the democratic supremacy of the Commons and to allow figures of eminence and expertise to continue to be appointed to play a role in Parliament, it will make plain its preference for a part-elected, part-selected second chamber when it sets the terms of reference for the commission.

Life members are to be asked to accept a retirement age to prevent the second chamber becoming overcrowded, according to senior ministers preparing the Government's initial thoughts on the second stage of reform, are now expected to be published in January.

The so-called interim chamber that will operate after the scrapping of hereditary peers' voting rights but before the new House comes into existence will have more than 600 members.

Because the new House will be at least one third elected, ministers are counting on a retirement limit of 65 or 70 for the non-elected members to prevent it becoming unmanageable. Retired life members would still have "club rights" but would not be able to vote.

Some of the elected members are likely to come from the Scottish parliament, the

Ministers will tell commission on Lords reform that elected-only body is out, says Philip Webster

Welsh and Northern Ireland assemblies, and any future regional assemblies.

The Bill abolishing the voting rights of hereditary peers, and the White Paper setting out plans for the interim chamber, appointing the royal commission, and listing the Government's initial thoughts on the second stage of reform, are now expected to be published in January.

Ministers are this week considering a shortlist of names to head the commission, which is expected to be told to report within 18 months, maintaining at least the possibility that the second stage could be legislated upon before the next general election.

Senior ministers say they are working on the assumption that Conservative peers will back the Cranborne agreement and not stand in the way of the Bill getting on the statute book some time next year. The Prime Minister will ap-

point some 55 life peers next summer to bring Labour's strength up to that of the Conservatives if the "Cranborne agreement" goes through. Under the proposal, to be included in an amendment to be put by Lord Weatherill, one tenth of hereditary peers will survive in line with their present strength in the Upper House. Some 42 Conservative hereditaries will stay on, 28 cross-benchers, three Liberal Democrats and two Labour.

That will leave the Conservatives on 215, Labour on 160, the cross-benchers on 148, and the Liberal Democrats on 48. The "deal" envisaged Mr Blair appointing enough peers to give Labour equality with the Tories and Paddy Ashdown is expected to argue for a larger Liberal Democrat representation.

Big doubts remain over the likely shape of the second chamber. There is almost certain to be an independent appointments commission to oversee the selection of nominated members. But political leaders are still expected to nominate large numbers of their existing life peers to serve in the new second chamber.

William Hague has ordered the Tory group investigating reform to speed up its work and report by March, months ahead of schedule. The likely outcome is a proposal which leaves no place for hereditaries.



Miss Boothroyd said the plans to reduce MPs' time at Westminster might call into question their dedication

BY MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

Speaker attacks plan to cut hours

BETTY BOOTHROYD, the Speaker, has attacked a proposal to reduce the amount of time MPs spend at Westminster.

The report, compiled by the all-party Select Committee on modernisation of the House, which is chaired by Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the House, proposes an overhaul of the parliamentary calendar. Its main recommendation is that Thursday morning sittings should begin at 11.30, rather than 9.30am, and finish at 7pm, instead of 10pm.

The report claims this would allow MPs more time for constituency work. But

make her other obligations as Speaker — meeting dignitaries, ministers and official entertaining — more difficult.

The committee's report acknowledged her comments and thanked her for "her assurance that she and the staff would seek to operate to the best of their ability within any changed pattern of working".

It rejected Miss Boothroyd's suggestion that the Commons meet for a number of five-day weeks with an occasional whole week when the House would not sit, saying the Thursday morning option had more advantages.

The committee said that if the House of Commons backed the idea the experiment could begin in January.

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Literacy hour pupils 'make fast progress'

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

PRIMARY pupils who have a daily literacy hour improve their reading levels by up to a third more than those who do not, research published yesterday shows.

A pilot study shows that pupils who were well below the average reading level for their age made three years' progress in just two years when they received the methods of teaching promoted in the National Literacy Strategy. Last September, primary schools were urged to adopt the NLS and were sent guidelines on how to teach reading by sounding individual letters in words — the phonic approach.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, yesterday said too many still ignored phonics. In this year's national curriculum tests for 11-year-olds, 175,000 children — more than one in three — failed to reach the required standard in reading. Half of 11-year-old boys also have serious problems with writing.

Announcing a further £50 million in grants to schools to continue training for the strategy, Mr Blunkett told a literacy conference in London that they were foolish to ignore it. "The secret is to accept what works, whether it upsets ideological convictions or not, and just do it." The report by the National Foundation for Educational Research states that "pupils in general made greater than expected progress over less than two years' involvement" in the project.

Blair must change his tune after row over Euro harmony

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown urgently need to rethink their European policy. They have badly mishandled the recent row over tax harmonisation and closer integration — in the process playing into the hands of the Eurosceptics.

The Government has made two strategic errors. First, ministers have pretended that monetary union need not involve closer integration in other areas, such as fiscal policy and co-ordination of economic approaches. Second, they have talked as if the structure of Europe will somehow stand still

while Britain decides whether to join the euro. Gordon Brown has behaved as if nothing important will be decided by the 11 euro states and that Britain will continue to have a big say. Both assumptions have been contradicted over the past week.

Germany and France have made plain what has always been implicit: that a single currency involves closer economic co-ordination and the removal of distortions. This does not mean a single income or corporation tax rate across Europe. What has been proposed is a clearer set of rules to deal with

tax havens, hidden subsidies and the like, as British ministers have been discussing.

However, the Government has been trapped in the sceptic rhetoric of the past decade. Each issue has been defined in absolute rather than relative terms. Everything has been presented as London versus Brussels. But talk of using the veto is a response, not a policy. Such attitudes make much harder the compromises that are a necessary part of a European Union of 15, let alone one of 25-plus likely in a decade.

Mr Brown overreacted when Os-

kar Lafontaine first mooted the idea of closer harmonisation. The Chancellor's defiant "no" sounded all too reminiscent of the late



Thatcher era. Senior officials then sought to depict Herr Lafontaine as a rogue elephant, speaking for himself rather than the new German coalition, especially when he

floated the idea of majority voting on tax policy.

However, Herr Lafontaine was quickly backed by Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, while Dominique Strauss-Kahn also endorsed a shift away from unanimity on tax policy. As so often, Britain has underestimated the closeness of France and Germany, and, in particular, of their two finance ministers.

Consequently, the British Government has been left on the defensive, making general threats but appearing ineffective. Ministers decided to weather the storm before counter-attacking and they were,

of course, helped by the Tory disarray over Lords reform. Robin Cook has been trying to regain the initiative in the past two days, arguing that Britain is not isolated and that many other countries oppose tax harmonisation.

The Government, therefore, has an answer to the more alarmist stories of the past few days. But ministers cannot rely just on negatives, if, at the same time, they are to retain influence in Europe. Mr Blair is aware of the danger and wants to avoid the isolation of the final Tory years, notably during the BSE crisis. He accepts the need to

be actively involved in Europe. No wonder that Mr Blair recently instructed ministers to spend more time getting to know their European counterparts.

The latest row also threatens Mr Blair's gradualist strategy, of hoping that increased use of the euro from next January will lead to increased public acceptance of the inevitability of Britain joining. That can no longer be assumed.

Mr Blair is going to have to argue more positively for closer British involvement in Europe and for accepting that a single currency means more integration.

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DELL

Nazi stadium gets £200m facelift

Germany wants to turn the 1936 Olympics venue into a home for the 2006 World Cup, writes Roger Boyes

HITLER'S rundown Olympic stadium in Berlin is to be given a £200 million facelift to prepare it for Germany's bid against Britain to stage the 2006 World Cup.

The stadium, surrounded by Third Reich statues glorifying the Aryan male, remains historically tarnished and controversial. The key question after yesterday's decision is: how much of the Nazi era should be allowed to stay in the remodelled football arena?

Outside, the stadium still looks in reasonable shape although shabbier than in 1936, when it was the focus of Hitler's attempts to turn the Olympics into a symbolic contest between Nordic athletes and black "sub-humans". The success of black American athletes, including Jesse Owens,

the sprinter, upset the calculation and Hitler refused to present the medals.

Inside, the stadium is in poor condition. The masonry from the supposed Thousand-Year Reich has become soft and crumbly. Steel props hold up the outer walls. Water leaks everywhere. The stadium, built between 1934 and 1936 by Werner March, was "improved" by Hitler's architectural adviser, Albert Speer.

To prevent the stadium from looking too modern — much of the design had been copied from the Americans — Speer insisted on shell lime-

stone to cover some of the concrete. The result is that the walls are now cracking. Before every football match or musical event, engineers make special drillings to make sure that nobody is hit on the head by masonry.

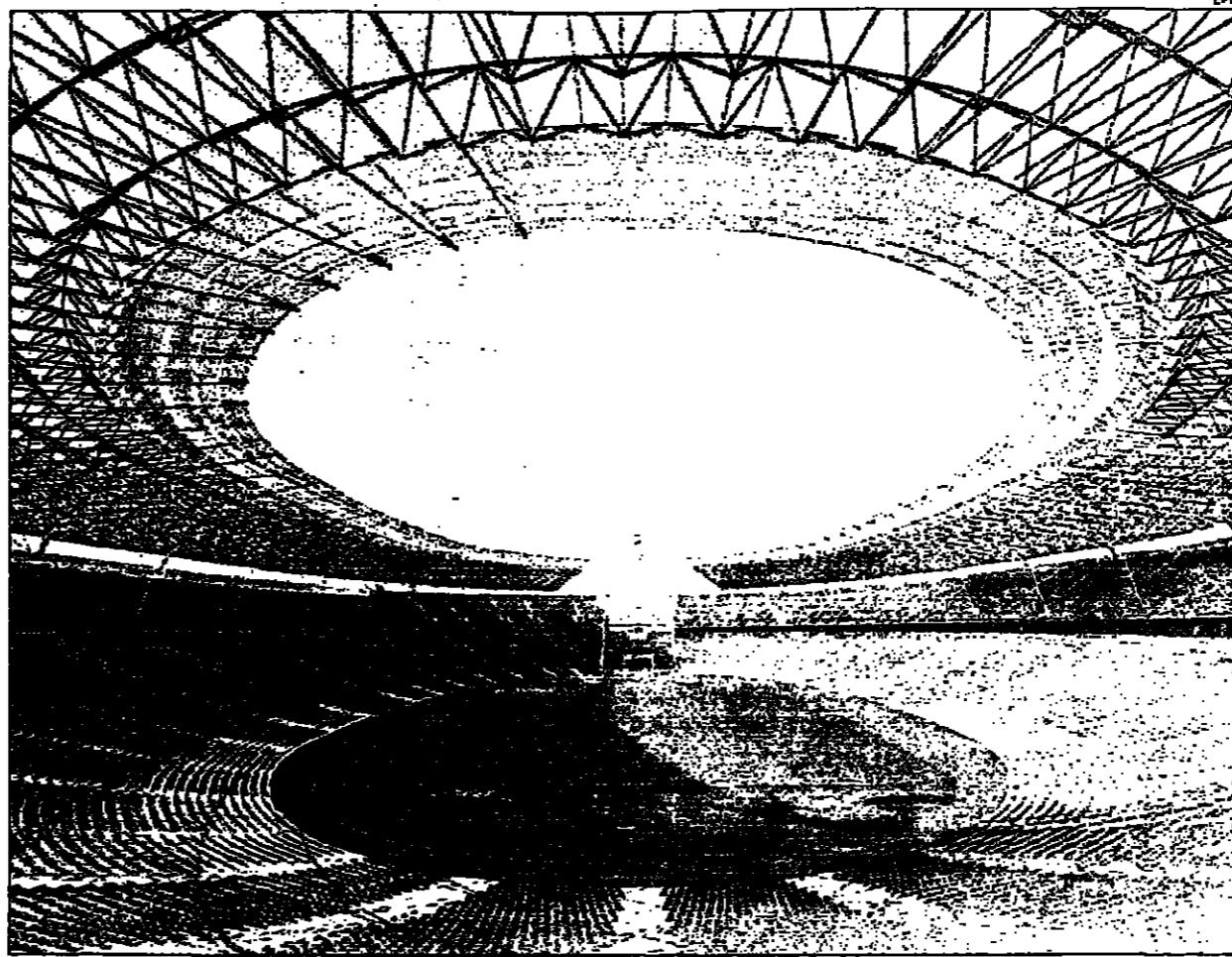
The renovation, the plans for which were published yesterday, includes sinking the floor by about 9ft and building a new roof. The terraces will be remodelled and the colour scheme will give a more sympathetic, less totalitarian tint to the building. The big argument, however, is about what should be preserved.

The statues will stay in the redesign. They include Arno Breker's *Daszulete* and other impossibly muscular figures. Even after a facelift, the stars of the Nazi era is likely to hang around the terraces. A plaque was recently set up in the stadium honouring Carl Diem, the chief organiser of the 1936 Games. As Berlin crumpled in

'2,000 boys died in 1945 trying to win the stadium from the Russians'

April 1945, Diem put together a Hitler Youth unit that tried and failed to win back the stadium from Soviet soldiers. About 2,000 teenagers died in this pointless action. Leni Riefenstahl's documentary film, *Olympia*, turned the stadium into a symbol of unstoppable National Socialism.

During the war, part of the stadium was used by the Blaupunkt company to make weapons. Later it was used as a tobacco store and after the war became part of the complex that served the British military Government. Len Deighton and other thriller writers have



An artist's impression, above, of the proposed rebuilt stadium and, right, the Olympic flame is carried past massed Nazi Youth at the start of the 1936 Games

Vienna: An "alarming" rise in racism has taken place in Europe over the past decade, with one third of Europeans now admitting to being racist, an EU-backed anti-racism watchdog reported. The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia compared opinion polls conducted in 1989 and last year on people's attitudes to minorities groups. (AFP)

'Baron' held in stolen art inquiry

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

POLICE investigating a lucrative trade in antiquities plundered from ancient Sicilian tombs said yesterday they had discovered that the gang controlling the racket was led not by Godfathers but by "citizens above suspicion", including academics, respected collectors and a self-styled baron.

Police officers in Catania, in Sicily, recovered tens of thousands of "priceless archaeological artefacts" after raids on houses belonging to the ring.

"We are looking into how many more they sold on the international art market" a police spokesman said. He said there was evidence that some had been bought by foreign museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York — in many cases the antiquities had carried fake authenticity certificates.

Maria Grazia Branciforti, Superintendent of Fine Arts for the Catania region, said of the hoard: "The objects are worth millions of pounds. But they also have an inestimable cultural value to Italy." The haul included Greek and Roman jewels, mosaics, coins, statues, vases and amphorae.

Those held include "Baron" Vincenzo Cammarata, 50, a landowner. Giacomo Mangano, 71, professor of ancient history, and Salvo Di Bella, 53, professor of political geography, at Catania University.

Reggio Calabria: Luxury villas belonging to Giuseppe and Antonio Piuromalli, two brothers of a southern Italian Mafia family, have been seized by the police, an official said here yesterday. Giuseppe, one of the 30 most wanted mafiosi in Italy, is on the run; Antonio is in prison. (AFP)



Karl Albiker's Discus Throwers at the stadium

Cook seeks EU drive to foster human rights

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, has called on his European partners to do more to promote human rights around the globe.

In a joint letter with Joschka Fischer, the new German Foreign Minister, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Mr Cook has proposed an annual EU human rights report to keep track of European initiatives and monitor countries whose rights record cause concern.

They suggest that such a report could begin next year — the first probably coming out in June at the time of the EU summit in Cologne. Both Mr Cook and Herr Fischer, the leader of the Greens in the German coalition, have made much of the need to give foreign policy an ethical dimension. The aim would be to set up an EU equivalent of the US State Department's annual review of human rights around the world.

The two men sent a letter last week to Wolfgang Schäfer, the Austrian Foreign Minister, asking for a formal launch of the idea at the EU Vienna summit this weekend.

Britain is to mark the anniversary on Thursday with ceremonies, lectures and grants to support publicity and education programmes promoting human rights.

The highpoint of Britain's celebrations will be a national commemorative service in Westminster Abbey on Thursday in the presence of the Princess Royal.

Mr Cook and senior officials of Amnesty International and the United Nations Association will attend the one-hour service, and Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian writer and human rights campaigner, will give an address.

Clare Short will represent Britain at a special session of the UN General Assembly in New York, and Joyce Quinn, Foreign Office Minister for European Affairs, will attend a ceremony in Vienna for EU leaders on the eve of the European summit.

Mr Cook is using the occasion to underline his commitment to an "ethical" foreign policy — a controversial and much criticised plank of the Foreign Office's mission statement, issued when Labour came to power.



Joschka Fischer, left, and Robin Cook, who propose an annual EU report to monitor rights worldwide

Five jailed for flag attack on Rock

Gibraltar: Richard Sáenz de Vestrillas, 33, leader of Spain's extreme-right Alliance for National Unity, and four followers were jailed yesterday for five days for tearing down the Union flag at the Moorish Castle here and raising the Spanish colours (Dominique Searle writes).

The five men admitted damaging the flag and causing a breach of the peace, but said they did not recognise the court's jurisdiction. They will be jailed in the basement of

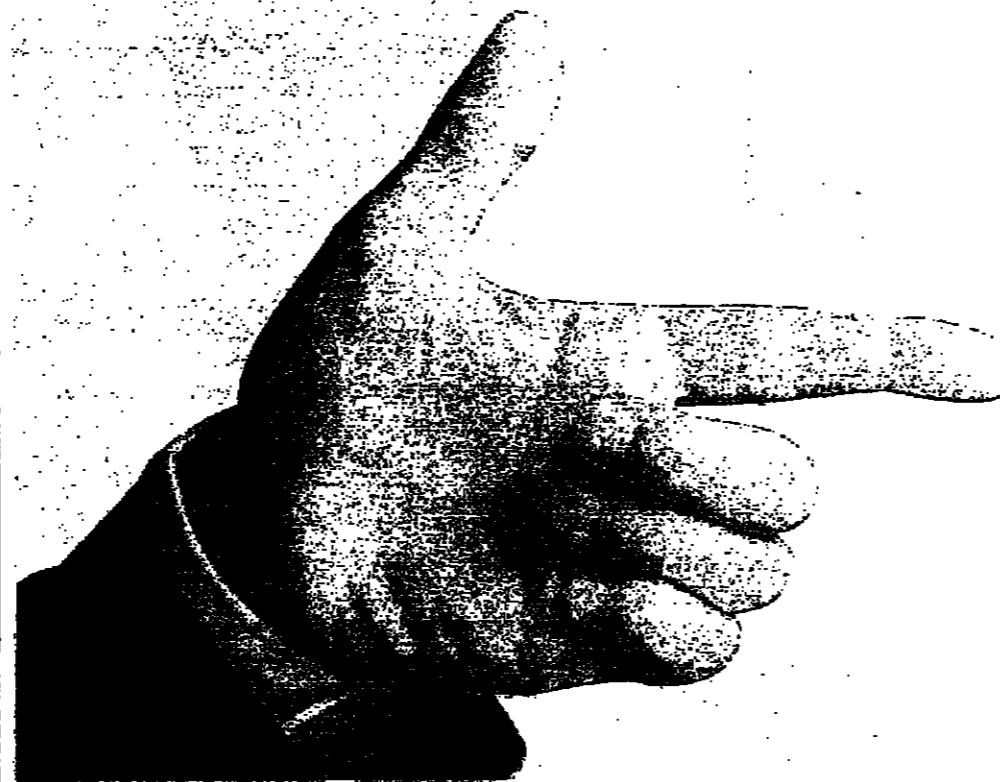
the tower they occupied on Sunday, Gibraltar's only prison. During the hearing, two female supporters were removed from the public gallery by police who feared violence.

A sixth man, Imigo Pérez de Herrasti Urquijo, received a suspended sentence for handing out leaflets and acting in a way likely to cause a breach of the peace. Bruno Navarro Rousseau Durmaçet pleaded not guilty to a similar charge and was remanded in custody for a trial today.

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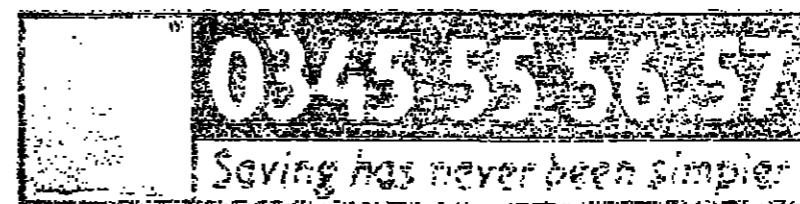


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Anwar driver retracts claim of sex crimes

By DAVID WATTS, ASIA EDITOR

A KEY witness in the central allegations against Anwar Ibrahim, the Malaysian former Deputy Prime Minister, denied yesterday that he was ever sodomised by him.

Onlookers in court gasped when Azizan Abu Bakar, who once was Mr Anwar's driver and who is a prime witness against him, apparently destroyed one of the main planks of the Government's case.

In earlier evidence to the court, he had said that he was sodomised repeatedly by Mr Anwar, who had forced him into the crime.

When the trial resumed yesterday after the weekend, however, Mr Azizan agreed with Christopher Fernando, for the defence, that it had never happened and that was why he had continued to visit Mr An-

war after the offence was alleged to have taken place.

Mr Anwar has said all along that there was a high-level conspiracy to ruin his political career, but even Mr Fernando appeared taken aback at Mr Azizan's reversal. He repeated the question in English and it was translated into Malay: "I put it to you that Anwar Ibrahim did not sodomise you and that is why you visited him between 1992 and 1997."

Mr Azizan replied in the affirmative.

Defence counsel decided to let his response rest as a key piece of evidence and asked no further questions. There was no response from the prosecution. If the defence is successful in discrediting Mr Azizan's evidence, it could prove a difficult obstacle for the prosecution.

Mr Azizan is central to some of the most serious charges of misconduct against Mr Anwar. He is on trial on four counts of abuse of power. He will be tried later on another charge of corruption and five charges of illegal sex acts.

Mr Anwar denies any wrongdoing. Mr Azizan's accusations related to events in 1992 when he was employed by Mr Anwar's wife, Wan Azizah. Mr Azizan said last week that shame had kept him from making public Mr Anwar's alleged repeated homosexual acts. He spoke about them eventually when prompted last year by Ummi Hafida Ali, who has accused Mr Anwar of sleeping with her brother's wife.

Leading article, page 19

Aboriginal woman jockey dies after fall

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S first female Aboriginal jockey died yesterday after her family asked doctors to switch off her life-support machine.

Leigh-Anne Goodwin, injured on Saturday in a fall at a rural Queensland race-track, was flown to Brisbane for treatment but never regained consciousness. A single mother, she would have been 28 on New Year's Day.

Her father, Mark, stood by her bedside as the instruction was given yesterday and said: "She discussed it with us a few times and she made me promise I wouldn't go soft if the hard decision had to be made. She didn't want to just exist." Two other Queensland jockeys have died in the last two years after

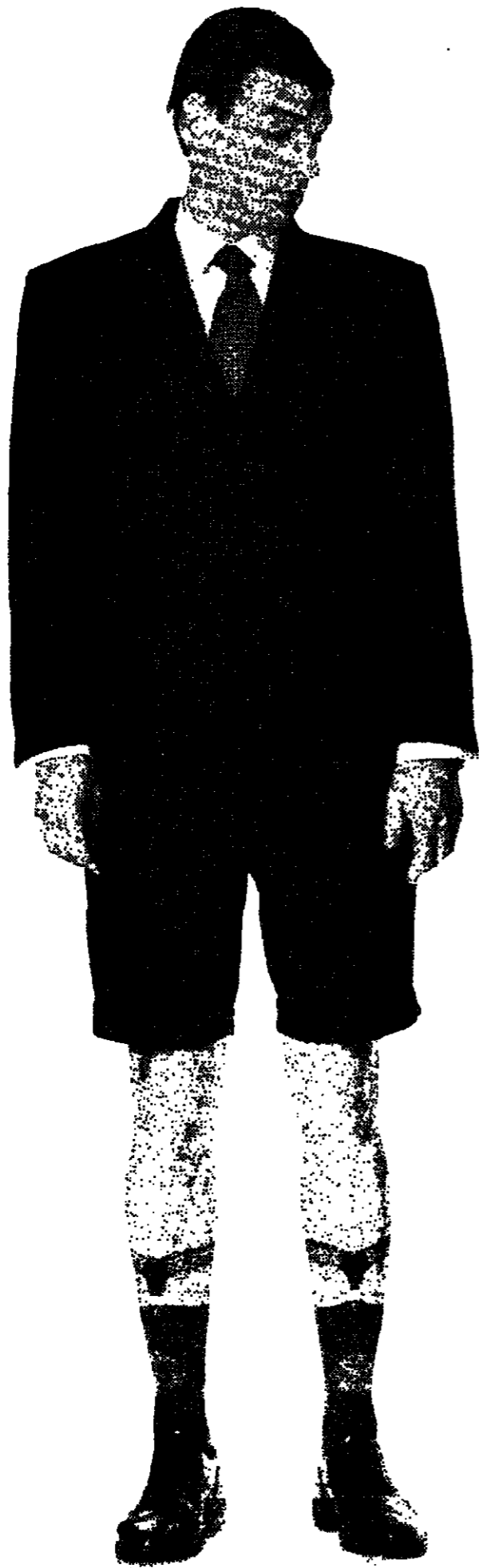
spending long periods on life-support machines. "She didn't want her son to remember her like that," her sister, Gemma, said. Ms Goodwin's death was as courageous as her career, which she pursued despite the efforts of her father to dissuade her.

She first said she wanted to be a jockey when she was three, but until she was 16 her father thought that he was winning the battle to keep her out of the saddle. She took up hairdressing, but when she was 19, she became a jockey. Riding on a rural track is generally accepted to be more dangerous than on the big metropolitan courses.

Racing, page 47



Leigh-Anne Goodwin, 27, whose life-support machine was turned off after she suffered a fall at a rural racecourse in Queensland on Saturday. She had wanted to be a jockey since she was three, but finally took it up when she was 19, becoming Australia's first woman Aboriginal jockey.



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Cricket in drive for non-whites

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE governing body of South African cricket is to force provincial sides to select non-white players.

The decision by the United Cricket Board (UCB) to require all 11 provincial teams to include at least one "player of colour" in their sides from next season is aimed at breaking a "glass ceiling" on the selection of non-white players.

The move came after sports administrators were shocked by the fielding of an all-white team for the first Test against the West Indies, which South Africa won, the weekend before. The all-white side provoked allegations of racism among the selectors.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the UCB, said yesterday: "We need to widen the racial profile at the top of the game."

The board also decided that at a national level, "people of colour should be selected for all future squads chosen to play international matches" with immediate effect. "We say 'should', not 'must', because we obviously have to ensure that the national side is selected on merit," Dr Bacher said.

"The idea is to unlock the talent that is being held back at provincial level," a UCB insider said yesterday.

Melbourne aims for tallest tower

Melbourne: An Australian builder won government approval yesterday to build a 120-storey skyscraper that would qualify for the title of the world's tallest building.

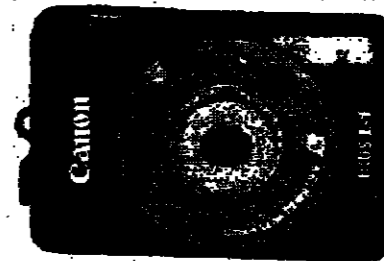
Bruno Grollo's A\$1.3-billion (£550 million) plan for a 1,850ft tower was named the winning bidder by the Victoria state government for a vital part of redeveloping the Melbourne docklands.

Mr Grollo said construction could start within a year and be completed in a further five. Grollo Tower would be 300ft taller than the current tallest building, the Petronas Towers in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. The plans include a 320-bed luxury hotel, 450 apartments, shops and offices. (AFP)



An artist's impression of the Melbourne tower

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Yeltsin wields axe to show he is boss

FROM ANNA BLINDY IN MOSCOW

BORIS YELTSIN emerged from hospital yesterday, sacked four members of his administration and returned to his sick bed to continue recuperating from pneumonia. He also brought the Justice Ministry and the state tax police under his personal control.

Valentin Yumashev, the President's Chief of Staff and a key member of his inner circle, was the most surprising dismissal. Yuri Yarov, Mikhail Komissar and Yevgeni Savostyanov were also dismissed from Mr Yeltsin's team.

Mr Yumashev is said to have taken part in planning the restructuring of the presidential team along with Taty-

ana Dyachenko, Mr Yeltsin's daughter. He is considered likely to remain an adviser. His replacement is Nikolai Bordyuzha, a KGB veteran, who will combine his new duties with his current job as secretary of the advisory security council. He has been instructed to restructure the administration and get tough on high-level corruption.

Mr Yumashev, a former journalist who was the ghost-writer of Mr Yeltsin's two books, *Against the Grain* and *President's Notes*, is said to be close to Boris Beresnevsky, Russia's most influential tycoon. He was behind the recent confirmations of the worsening



Nikolai Bordyuzha, left, a KGB veteran, was made Chief of Staff to Boris Yeltsin, centre, at work in the Kremlin yesterday, within hours of the sacking of Valentin Yumashev, right

state of Mr Yeltsin's health and is no longer a second government, as it was under Anatoli Chubais, but is what it should be - the President's inner office.

But Viktor Chernomyrdin, the former Prime Minister, accused Mr Yumashev's administration of "stagnation

and lack of initiative". Dmitri Yakushkin, Mr Yeltsin's press spokesman, said the President sacked the four because of "failure to take serious steps to combat political extremism and corruption". Last week *Kommersant Daily*, in an article, said: "By all indications the President's staff no longer

have enough political will to support the President... In this situation either Yeltsin or his entourage will have to go... Whether Yeltsin will be able to hold on to power until 2000 will largely depend on his ability to compel his staff to work for him."

Meanwhile, the pro-reform party Yabloko seems to have done well in Sunday's city elections in St Petersburg, according to early results. The Communists are lying second. The result bodes well for the presidential hopes of Grigori Yavlinsky, Yabloko's leader.

□ Fewer Russians: If Russia's population decline continues at the present rate it will have halved by the middle of the 21st century. Plummeting birth and soaring death rates have meant a decline of 4.2 million people between 1992 and 1997. The present population is 150 million.

Russian malaise, page 18



Cantona and Mookie take a walk on the wild side with Jacques Villeret, who plays a fiar, in one film scene

Cantona kicks the football habit and tackles chimp film

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ERIC CANTONA, former footballer, philosopher and aspiring film star, breaks the actor's rule about not working with children or animals tomorrow when he appears in his first big film role, opposite a talking chimpanzee.

The release of *Mookie*, a comedy in which Cantona plays a small-time boxer trying to evade a gang of criminals in Mexico, is intended to launch his film career into the big time, but it has provided the French press with the opportunity to take the mickey out of *Mookie* and the retired Manchester United striker.

The newspaper *Le Journal du Dimanche* implied that Cantona was in danger of being upstaged by his co-star, the eponymous Mookie, and published a photograph of the chimp and the actor above the caption: "Which of these two is the more expressive? Cantona demonstrates he is a natural actor who does not have to be taught how to smile."

The reviewer also pointed out that, for his first leading role, "Eric's" task has been made easier by being asked to play "Cantona." As a southern French sportsman with intellectual leanings and an impenetrable regional accent, Cantona plays a southern

French sportsman with intellectual leanings and an impenetrable regional accent. "It has to be admitted, he is pretty good at it," remarked Carlos Gomez, the reviewer, tongue-in-cheek, adding that Cantona's Marseille brogue is "as thick as olive oil". Cantona's first part was a supporting role in the film *Le Bonheur est dans le Pré* (*Happiness lies in the Meadow*) and he appeared as a French nobleman in the British film *Elizabeth*.

Hervé Palud, the director, however, makes clear from the outset of *Mookie* that this is intended to be Cantona's official departure from the world of football and his big break on the big screen, using symbolism - as subtle as a kang-fu kick to the jaw. In one scene a football kicked by street children rolls to the feet of Cantona, who, instead of kicking it, mechanically steps over it and walks on.

Mookie is scheduled to appear in British cinemas in the middle of next year, and in the meantime, Cantona is working on a new film, *Les Enfants du Marais* (*Children of the Marsh*), the title of which suggests that the fearless former footballer is moving directly from working with animals to working with children.

US peace plan for Kosovo rejected

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A NEW draft political solution for Kosovo was rejected yesterday by the chief ethnic Albanian negotiator.

Speaking in Pristina, Fehmi Agani said the new US draft for a political settlement in the majority Albanian province was too close to the views of Serbia.

Hundreds have been killed and almost 300,000 ethnic Albanians displaced in a seven-month crackdown by Serbian forces against Kosovo's separatists, before an October

peace agreement brought about a tentative truce.

Serbia yesterday issued a veiled threat to international verifiers in Kosovo, saying it would be forced to launch a new offensive in the province if the West did not rein in ethnic Albanian guerrillas.

In The Hague yesterday, General Radislav Krstic, the top Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect, pleaded that he was not guilty of overseeing the 1995 massacre of thousands of Muslims.

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Suburbia is mobilised for 2000 'disaster'

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

IN Beverly Hills they spread the word at emergency preparedness fairs. In suburban Denver they run a Website that attracts 100,000 visitors a month. In Washington they are urging Christmas shoppers to buy thermal underwear instead of silk pyjamas. From coast to coast, they are stockpiling food. Meet the Y2K suburbanites — respectable, middle-class converts to the view that the millennium will bring a global computer meltdown. Hundreds of thousands of ordinary Americans have begun forming local groups dedicated to preparing for midnight on December 31, 1999, when they believe millions of computer chips will lose track of time. At this point, the theory goes, power grids will fail, food distribution systems will grind to a halt, sewers will back up, crime will escalate and airlines will be grounded

if they are lucky; the nightmare scenario has planes tumbling from the sky. The year 2000 deadline is one that a frantic few have warned the world about for years, but the latest prophets are not paranoid survivalists. They see themselves as concerned citizens whose society, as one put it yesterday, is "sleepwalking" into chaos. Diann Powell, 52, is one of them. Three weeks ago she resigned from her job with a Los Angeles engineering firm to set up the city's Westside Y2K Preparedness Task Force. She has booked the 3,000-seat Santa Monica Civic Auditorium for a seminar in February and in the meantime is knocking on 520 doors in her affluent Mar Vista neighbourhood, seeking listeners and support. She is also buying hundreds of cans of tuna and salmon,

making sure they all have recent sell-by dates. Such views first entered mainstream America last year when Paloma O'Riley, an American computer expert working for Rover in London, declined an offer to stay in England until 2000 and went home to Colorado. In the northern Denver suburb of Louisville, Ms O'Riley now runs a community project that happens to believe time has already run out to debug the world's computer systems. Back in California, the Y2K preparedness movement has enlisted Pat Boone, the uncrowned king of gospel rock, to persuade Beverly Hills homeowners that the threat to their ossified lives is real. Should they still doubt it, they might note that the Federal Reserve is making plans to print an extra \$50 billion in cash in case of a run on banks.



Sabrina Battaglia arrives for her wedding yesterday in a gem-studded bridal dress

Precious dress to glitter for charity

Naples: An Italian woman was married yesterday in a 10 billion lire (£3.6 million) dress covered with diamonds, some of which she said she planned to donate to an Aids charity after the ceremony.

Sabrina Battaglia, 31, turned up for her wedding to Aniello Formisano, 32, at the church of San Francesco di Paola, Naples, in an ivory dress studded on the bodice and skirt with 6,000 gems. The gown was slashed to the waist and featured game sleeves and a feathery ruff. The ceremony was featured on a daytime television show. A spokeswoman for Anlids, an Aids activist group, said the couple would donate 50 diamonds to raise funds for a planned centre in Naples for children suffering from the condition. Some of the other diamonds on the dress will be auctioned to raise cash for the cause. But Signora Battaglia will keep the large diamond ring, a gift from her husband. The diamonds were supplied by the bridegroom's brother-in-law, a gem dealer. Those not being sold or donated were returned to him. (Reuters)

Research blow for women warriors

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

RESEARCH showing that women are nine times more likely than men to suffer a knee injury during military training is being presented as evidence that they should not be allowed to fight alongside men on the battlefield. As calls increase in America for an equal combat role for women, the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, conducted a study of midshipmen which found that the incidence of anterior cruciate ligament injury was much higher among women. "The research suggests women are nine times more prone to injury during training. This may become an issue of political controversy," according to Captain John Wickens's report. Doctors said women have more flexible tendons and softer tissues than men, which afford less protection to ligaments. The Pentagon bans women from land combat, but there has been a clamour for equal status. The Family Research Council seized on the report as evidence that the claims were misguided.

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WORLD IN BRIEF

Algerian toll rises as Ramadan nears

Paris: At least 60 people have been killed in Algeria in the last six days as the death toll mounts in the run-up to Ramadan (Ben Macintyre writes). In the latest of a series of attacks blamed on Islamic insurgents, a parcel bomb exploded yesterday in an Algiers suburb, injuring at least a dozen people. Muslim rebels consider the holy month of Ramadan, which will begin in the second half of December, to be an auspicious time for increasing the ferocity of their Jihad against the military-backed Government. During Ramadan last year, some 1,200 people were killed.

Eight killed in fire

Paris: A pre-dawn fire gutted a retirement home near Montmartre which had failed a safety inspection a week ago. Eight people were reported dead and 25 injured, some seriously. Among other points that a safety commission found lacking were emergency facilities to rescue people in the event of a disaster. About 40 of the 80 people in the home were evacuated by ladder. (AP)

Island battles rage

Moroni: Factional fighting on the secessionist Comoran island of Anjouan intensified, with a district of Mutsumudu, the main town, on fire. Sources put the death toll since Saturday at 30 to 40. Looters pillaged shops in Mutsumudu, where followers of the self-styled "president", Abdallah Ibrahim, attacked the adjoining village of Mironity. Many residents fled to a neighbouring village. (AFP)

Miners rescued

Beijing: Six Chinese miners have been found alive after being trapped in a caved-in mine for 27 days, officials in Hebei province said. They survived by drinking water seeping through the roof and eating their leather belts. They were too weak to speak when rescued on November 26; the roof of the gypsum mine collapsed on October 31. (AFP)

Lust for oblivion

Wellington: A rare New Zealand bird, the hihi, about the size of a robin but with a bigger ego, is being driven to extinction because of its high-sex drive, according to a researcher at Massey University. Isabel Castro said constant pressure from males to copulate was making females stressed and more susceptible to disease. (Reuters)

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THEATRE TOKENS

'It is hard to describe the emptiness'

You never imagine that it will happen to you. The early morning phone call: the heart-stopping moment when you learn that someone close to you is dead. These are things to be read about in books or seen at the cinema: music rising to a climax as some Hollywood heroine clutches the phone in disbelief. But there is no music; only a muffled voice, from deep in the subconscious, screaming: this cannot be happening to me.

The call came in late October. My eldest brother, Mike, had been killed in a car crash in Cape Town, where we grew up. He was 42. It had happened the night before and there were few details. He was not married, and we were telephoned by friends.

My parents emigrated to South Africa in 1967, and we will always think of the Cape as home. Mike stayed on when the rest of us returned to England in the mid-Eighties, and had been flying long stints in Angola, where he was a pilot with the United Nations. With time, memory dulled, and the Cape, with its valleys and vineyards, slipped into the realm of dreams. A wonderful, distant, dream.

But this was no dream, and the past had come blasting back like one of those fearsome Cape storms, sweeping in from the South Atlantic. God, how the wind used to blow, tearing off branches and hammering the rain against the windows. It raged again, now, as I struggled to take in the words. At times like this,

Jon Ashworth on coming to terms with the death of his eldest brother in a car crash

something kicks in, and you do what has to be done. You become detached, as if looking on while someone else — not you — goes through the motions. Slowly, the details began to emerge. The accident happened on a road we knew well, winding its way up a tree-lined valley from Hout Bay to Constantia Nek. We must have driven it hundreds of times.

Mike had been out for supper with some friends — Brett, 29, and his younger sister, Philippa. They paid their bill at about 11.15pm and drove off in Brett's BMW, with Mike as a passenger in the front. It had been raining, and there was a film of water on the road.

The police came across the wreckage about 30 minutes later. The BMW was wedged in among some trees. The entire front section — bonnet, engine and wheels — had been ripped off in the impact and flung across the road. Mike and Brett must have died instantly. Philippa was found unconscious near by. There were no witnesses and no tyre marks. For some terrible reason, the car



Brothers: left to right, Mike Ashworth with Tom and Jon in Cape Town

lost control at high speed and crashed side-on into a big eucalyptus tree, striking it just in front of the driver's door, then spinning round into two smaller trees, disintegrating as it turned. One tree was struck with such force that the upper half snapped off and hurtled over a wall, landing upright in the soil. The car's cigarette lighter was found 69 paces up the road.

Sitting in London, stuck on the end of a phone, I longed for someone to tell me

that this was all a cruel hoax. But all too soon we really were 6,000 miles away, landing at the tip of Africa under a leaden sky. Cape Town is one of those time-warp places; never really changing. The same cars. The same roads. It is as if you have never been away.

We drove to the accident site. About halfway down the valley, the road runs past some cemeteries, with a little church to one side and signs warning drivers to slow for pedestrians. The road is

straight, here, and is lined with eucalyptus trees. It is a lonely place. As we drew near, my eyes were drawn to something colourful in the shadows. One of the trees had been garlanded with flowers, as if adorned with a necklace, yellow and white. The bark had been torn off and the earth around was gouged and littered with tiny pieces of debris. We got out to have a look. It is hard to describe the feeling of utter emptiness.

During the flight to Cape Town, lightning had pulsed through the clouds below like bombs exploding in an old war-time newsreel. The storm followed us, so that at midnight on the day we arrived in Cape Town, it erupted with Shakespearean intensity. Lightning framed the mountain, and the windows shook. It was as if the gods were raging for a life cut short.

Early the next morning, feeling numb, I drove to Hout Bay police station to collect Mike's personal belongings. Items were counted out and laid on the rough wooden counter: Mike's wallet, his ID book, a pen, his aviator's watch, his Nokia mobile phone. The police had even listed the banknotes by serial number.

Now honest, I remember thinking: Next came the funeral arrangements, and with them, a deepening sense of unreality. I paid for it all on my Barclaycard, for God's sake! Choosing the coffin was like a visit to a car showroom (shall we go for the basic model, or do we throw in the alloy wheels?). They have since

sent me a questionnaire asking: 'Would you use our company? For us, the funeral was a revelation. One of Mike's fellow pilots spoke of calls coming in via satellite from all over Central Africa. An air traffic controller from Cape Town airp described how a shadow had fallen over the airwaves when the terrible news bled. We saw Mike as he was seen by others: a consummate professional, highly respected by all. He had recently flown his 10,000th hour, ferrying UN supplies and personnel to remote strips, a lifeline in a land torn by conflict.'

We were shown photographs taken in Angola: derelict Russian aircraft everywhere, bullet-scattered buildings as children playing to the camera. Mike, an unsung hero, flying with other using heroes who are flying there now.

Back in London, it is hard, sometimes, to believe that any of this happened. It all seems so distant; so remote; yet he isn't real enough. Different emotions are crowding in: sorrow, for a life that should have been; anger, that such a thing should happen; guilt, over things which were left unresolved; and bewilderment, at the shifting emotional sands. Above all, there is fear: the recognition that life could end now, that instant. That's how fragile it is. We'll like to think we will grow old and die in our sleep, but it doesn't happen that way. And I will never look at a BMW without wondering what happened on that lonely road, far away at the end of Africa.

Coping with the baffling Tourette syndrome takes courage, says **Anjana Ahuja**

Roughly every five minutes, Peter Stephenson will punch himself in the throat. Struggle as he might to maintain a pleasant manner, he cannot help spouting four-letter words and aggressively sticking his middle finger in the air. It is, he says, as if his body is inhabited by a malevolent spirit.

Peter, 16, suffers from Gilles de la Tourette syndrome (shortened to Tourette syndrome), a rare neurological disorder that results in utterances and physical tics that are outside the sufferer's control. His first attack came two years ago, after being bullied. "It was like something from *The Exorcist*," recalls his mother, Anne. "He started howling like a wolf and his body started flinging itself around the room. It was terrifying."

There is no cure and no clear understanding of what causes the disorder, which claims 29,000 sufferers in Britain. That is why Anne, 39, a classically trained violinist, is using her musical talent to raise money for the Tourette Syndrome (UK) Association (TSA). She has brought out a single, *Dance With Me Christmas Tree*, which tells the story of a pine tree that discovers on Christmas Day that it isn't alone after all. It describes the loneliness she felt until she was put in touch with the TSA. Anne, who also has a six-year-old son Alex by a later

Battle with the bizarre

marriage, is not rich — she lives in a council maisonette in Greenwich, in southeast London, and supplements earnings from her music sessions with family credit and housing benefit. Yet she has sunk £1,500 of her money into producing the single and won't recover her costs from any money she makes. She also plans to do a Christmas tree outfit, made by a costumier friend, and busk in Trafalgar Square and in shopping centres up and down the capital. Along with three violinist friends willing to dress up as fairies, she is also offering her musical services as an unusual quartet.

Her upfront manner and contacts in the music business — the one-time member of the Communards has played with the Manic Street Preachers, Massive Attack, Style Council and Bryan Ferry — have come in useful. "When I played with the Manics on *Top of the Pops* recently, I bumped into the

producer and showed him a picture of my Christmas tree outfit," Anne says. "He thought it was great, and asked if I would come on the Christmas edition." She has also managed to get BMG, a music company, to handle distribution of her record.

Peter, she thinks, inherited the condition from his father. Anne says: "Looking back, his father showed all the signs but, because we were both punks, I never noticed. He used to hop up and down the street, twirling and whooping. He used to talk in different voices. I thought it was part of his zany personality. It was only when we regained contact with him last year, after Peter said he wanted to meet him, that he said he suffered from the same urges as Peter."

Their son's condition, however, seemed far worse: "After that first attack, Peter spent six

months howling and suffering from very violent tics. He would tip his dinner on his head. He stabbed himself in the neck with a pen. He felt like there was something living inside his body. He'd keep shouting 'bollocks' and 'f---'. Like many other Tourette sufferers, Peter's condition was accompanied by attention deficit disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder. Anne says: "He was obsessive about his hair and teeth. He felt that if his hair wasn't perfect when he stepped out of the door, he would be killed. And he used to brush his teeth until his gums poured with blood."

He was taken into hospital many times for observation, and given drugs. "They gave him different drugs, some of which made the tics happen in slow motion. But the drugs turned him into a zombie." Anne and Peter decided jointly that sedative drugs were not the way forward for him.

The syndrome worsens when a person is under stress, which is why Anne fought for 18 months, along with Nick Raynsford, her local MP, to get him into a special school.

Now he lives during the week at Parkwood Hall School in Swanley, where he can nurture his gifts for music and art (Peter achieved an A* in GCSE art, his only qualification). "He's formed a band, and goes to a mainstream school one day a week to study A-level art," she says, proudly showing off her son's Dali-esque paintings.

On other days, he studies mathematics and English, has speech and language therapy, and help for his obsessive compulsive disorders. "He still punches himself in the chest every five minutes, and he still says 'f--- you', he still sticks his finger up and he still suffers sleeping problems, but he is so much happier." The arrangement allows Anne to give attention to Alex, and to have some respite for herself.

As highlighted by Anne's willingness to stand in Trafalgar Square in a Christmas tree costume, the family combats adversity with a sense of humour. "Sometimes, if he can't put a sock on, he will stick two fingers up at it, and you have to laugh," Anne smiles. "And it looks as if he will achieve what I have always wanted: his own job, his own flat and his own girlfriend. He used to worry about not having a girlfriend but now he has lots of girls after him because he is so handsome, talented, funny and witty. But he could so easily have gone the other way."

● TSA helpline: 01892 669151. For details of the single, or to book Anne Stephenson: 0181-355 6036



Anne Stephenson will dress in a Christmas tree outfit to raise funds for her son's condition

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Gordon Bennett! The man behind the mania

Sporting trophies tend to be weighed in ounces, but next week Sotheby's New York is to sell a 3st yachting cup that holds more than 12 gallons of punch. The Victorian extravagance of this prize epitomised the ostentatious, rumbustious and wild behaviour of James Gordon Bennett, who commissioned the cup. Bennett, the son of a Scotsman, started the *New York Herald* and later became a great American 19th-century newspaper owner.

Bennett's taste in practical jokes was mainly of the egg-on-the-face variety. Fortunately, he carried wads of banknotes, which he distributed to those who had been the butt of his jokes. Bennett suffered from mania, milder degrees of which are known as hypomania.

People with mania are over-energetic, over-optimistic and never keep still. They are

usually described as being over-eloquent, euphoric or excessively enthusiastic. But because they seem to be on the edge of being unbalanced and aggressive, some experts feel the mood is better described as overexcited.

Mania, with clinical depression, is part of the bipolar disorder. The hyperactivity displayed by manic patients includes an inability to sit still or to let other people have their say — manic people cut across every conversation and do not listen to others, for their thoughts leap from one subject to another. Manic patients tend to go on wild spending sprees, and/or become involved in a multitude of sexual scrapes or drinking binges. They are not only hyperactive in their movements, but also in their speech, talking so fast that it sounds as if the words are being forced out under pressure.

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

In those with a lesser degree of hypomania, their enthusiasm makes them excellent salespeople. Their slight disregard for accuracy in relation to their attainments often leads to rapid promotion. But once delusions of grandeur become too pronounced, trouble follows. Kings of industry may think of themselves as God, but if they express it, their board is apt to show alarm.

Bennett's downfall stemmed from a different symptom: he became wildly disinhibited. He urinated into the piano that had been brought to his engagement party, and later

fought a duel with his would-be brother-in-law. Although manic people usually seem jolly — the life and soul of the party — there is often, paradoxically, an element of suppressed depression and irritability underlying their mood, and they may become unpleasantly aggressive if thwarted, even violent. Bennett's mood varied from the moistly jovial and over-generous to the over-familiar and uninhibited — he did not understand the boundaries of social behaviour.

Today James Gordon Bennett could be treated. Instead of being ostracised in his later years, he would have continued to make his huge fortunes, and disperse his largesse. With correctly balanced treatment, the patient's mood and behavioural pattern will return to their previous state. Left untreated, not only may their social, professional and domestic life cascade around

their ears, but their enjoyers, wives and families are also frequently damaged.

Dr Tommy Sharma, the Institute of Psychiatry in London says: "In a manic patient's case it is essential to delete if there are psychotic features — grandiose delusions or religious mania, for example. Now that the neurobiology of the brain is understood we can treat the disease adequately and patients can return to their old lifestyles."

Psychoses are treated with atypical neuroleptics, possibly risperidone, which do not cause excessive weight gain. Lithium is no longer only drug used to treat over-excitability. Medications for epilepsy, including carbamazepine, are effective against mania and hypomania. Other useful anti-epileptics are lamotrigine. More recently, clinical trials have started on topiramate.

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I've worked like a dog

His public persona suggests he is a vain prima donna. In fact, Michael Flatley is earnest, engaging and smart. Interview by Noreen Taylor

It is a scene that the fans of Michael Flatley, the flamboyant dancer, never see and one his detractors could never imagine. "Beats could never imagine. I had to be pulled there by the ears practically. Baseball, skating, boxing, all took priority over Irish dancing. In fact, my father insisted my brother and I had boxing lessons so we could protect ourselves from other boys attacking us because we went to dance classes."

Flatley was born in 1958, in Chicago's tough South Side, after his parents emigrated from Co. Carlow, though he spent much of his childhood going back and forth to Ireland to stay with his late grandmother, a former Irish dance champion. In a voice that softly blends Irish and American accents he says: "My grandmother was the great influence in my life. She swore you could get everything you wanted if you concentrated and worked hard."

For the first time I had freedom to express what I felt

Flatley's initial reluctance, dancing eventually became his passion. "I fell in love with it, and with the music. I learned to play the fiddle. To this day it still makes me happier than anything else."

At 17, he won the World Dance Championship in Dublin, but was unsure what he should do. "All I knew was that I had this obsession, but this was long before Irish music and dancing became recognised, so how could I earn my living as an Irish dancer?"

Perhaps the misrepresentation begins with his clothes and appearance. "When we meet he is wearing a black leather coat, black shirt, black rousers and black Cuban-heeled boots. His December tan is offset by a headlight-sized diamond dazzling from his left ear. As soon as we begin to talk this ostentatious veneer loses its significance. Flatley, who literally leapt to fame in *Riverdance* and has gone on to make millions as the creator, choreographer, producer and star of *Lord of the Dance* extravaganzas, is not in the least conceited. Admittedly, we to share a love for traditional Irish dancing, which was unknown outside Ireland and its expatriate communities in our youth. We swap childhood stories about nights spent in draughty halls practising hard reels and slip jigs, training the set to land in the correct position after a leap as anxious parents looked on, travelling to compete in fairs (festivals). He was not at all enthusiastic about dancing when aged

11, his mother, Elish, took him and his four siblings to dance classes in one of Chicago's Irish community church halls. "I hated every minute. I had to be pulled there by the ears practically. Baseball, skating, boxing, all took priority over Irish dancing. In fact, my father insisted my brother and I had boxing lessons so we could protect ourselves from other boys attacking us because we went to dance classes."



At 40, Michael Flatley is still executing daring Baryshnikov-style leaps along with the exacting, intricate footwork of the high-speed jigs and reels

you have to. Smile when you feel the thrill of the music, or because you're stirred by the performance. Before the show at the Oscars last year I told the dancers 'This is like our Olympic Games. You're dancing tonight for Ireland.' "It's not easy to make your mark on the world. I've worked like a dog day in and day out. I don't have to worry about money now, but there are other stresses to replace the worries of not being able to pay bills."

Never mind about the cars and houses, the most valuable commodity of all is what is there in your heart. And my heart is made up of Irish music and dance.

There have been sacrifices along the way. He was married for ten years to Beata, a Polish woman, now living in Los Angeles. Like him, she has never remarried. "She was the most beautiful woman I ever laid eyes on. We divorced, putting shows together, rarely with her, though I loved her dearly and still do. But what kind of life was it for her, sitting around waiting for me to come home? She was too young and beautiful to waste her life waiting."

"I miss not having children, especially when I see my sisters' and brother's children. I can't imagine what it must be like having a little one coming towards you, calling 'Daddy.'"

Aside from children and marriage, most of his wish list seems to have been fulfilled, although rumours of him retiring from dancing to pursue a boxing career can, says his press agent, be ignored.

"I follow my dreams," Flatley says. "People used to tell me to get a proper job, that no one could dance like I do once they're 40. But that's negativity, and I don't let it penetrate. It's never too late to do something if you're focused. Next year I'm being given the chance to do my own movie, *Dream Dancer*. And I'll show them again."

Michael Flatley's new video, *Feet of Flames*, is available on VCL. The soundtrack is on PolyGram TV. Lord of the Dance will tour the UK next March. London dates 0181-902 0902; Birmingham 0121-300 2222; Manchester 0161-930 8000

Dinner for Fay? Simple: meat and one Reg

I met my wife at a dinner given by Yan-Kit So, the scholar of Chinese cuisine. Placecards had been provided, and the look of disappointment on Fay Maschler's face when she read "Reg" (I was seated to her right) was not hard to interpret: the same has never opened doors in smart society. But I had got Fay wrong. She is warm, generous and there are too few like her about.

We began talking and life took another direction, especially when a fellow guest, an expert on Chinese vegetables, said: "It is hard to think of anything to do with the cucumber." The momentary silence was ended by the glamorous woman to my left. "I can think of at least five things to do with one," she said sweetly. Soon after I joined service in that somewhat eccentric band of anonymous companions to professional restaurant reviewers. I find restaurants, like art galleries, bookshops and prize fights, irresistible. So it is fortunate for me that we eat out together six times each week and have done so for the past six years.

Sundays, when Fay writes her copy for the *London Evening Standard*, is when we eat in, and the cooking is invariably left to me, sometimes under the sympathetic direction of my sister-in-law. Usually it is one course: meat from Kevin Sheridan in Mount Street, and vegetables, usually from Villandry. But my wife is a formidable cook, as is her sister. Trying to match them would be absurd.

Only twice in the past six years have Fay and I fallen prey to acute food poisoning, and only once has one of us narrowly escaped death on the job. In a Frith Street restaurant we were discussing the merits of Neil Kinnock. His talents, I thought, were mayoral rather than prime ministerial. My wife leant forward, thank God, to remonstrate. At that moment a hefty wall the dislodged itself and slashed the banquet behind her within inches of her neck. It could have been the story of a lifetime: "Restaurant reviewer guillotined on the job with anonymous companion."


Only once has Fay affected a disguise: a wig and dark glasses, to fool Marco Pierre White. Undefeated, the great man - from Yorkshire, like myself - breezed over: "Oh Fay, you've had your hair cut. So have I."

REG GADNEY

● Mother, Son and Holy Ghost, by Reg Gadeney, is published by Faber.

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No Oskar awards from the Chancellor

Michael Gove exposes the real threat to Gordon Brown

We shall fight them on the rebates, we shall fight them on the VAT returns. We will never surrender. It may be handbags at dawn in the bars of Vienna this Friday but we can rely on Robin and Gordon to give Herr Lafontaine what for. If the Blairite dream lasts for a thousand years, they will still say our fight against harmonisation was our finest hour.

But even in this struggle, to keep our revenues pristine, there are collaborators. Only last week Dawn Primarolo, the Unity Miford of the Treasury, was in cabal with the continentals. Her purpose? To draw up a list of British tax exemptions which might be surrendered.

Ten areas where Britain enjoys tax advantages, from incentives for the film industry, through "enterprise zones", to special schemes for business in Ulster, are all to be sacrificed in the name of harmonisation. Given the scale of her collaboration why has she not been tarred and feathered on the Treasury steps? How can Red Dawn get away with it?

To appreciate the answer, it is necessary to understand the real threat which Oskar Lafontaine poses to Gordon Brown. And it is not tax harmonisation. I do not mean to argue that bringing British taxes into line with continental practice will be anything other than hugely harmful to our industry. And I do not underestimate how damaging the tax harmonisation row has been to the Chancellor's campaign to take Britain into EMU. But the looming danger to Mr Brown's position is not what Oskar will do to our economy, but what he is doing to Germany.

When Gordon Brown addressed the Labour Party conference in September he gave the brothers some of the old-time religion. But it was from the Gospel of St Margaret, the born-again believer in Prudence and Restraint, that he took his cue. Months before Culture Club had returned to the charts, Gordon was pioneering an Eighties revival.

He won a standing ovation, but it was a muted one because the comrades knew there was an alternative. And it had been elected just that day in Germany. The Social Democrat-Green alliance, with Oskar Lafontaine as its fulcrum, was going to prove that Keynes was not dead but alive and well and supervising a public works programme in the Saarland.

The emergence of Oskar as the dominant force in the new German Government poses significant problems for the Chancellor and his allies. One Brownite MP outlined the problem last week, pointing out that the Left within Labour, hitherto denied a practical alternative around which to rally, had been handed one by the German electorate.

The Chancellor's management of the economy is, of course, nowhere near as prudent as he would like us to believe. The reserve has been raided to keep Frank Dobson in bedpans for the winter. Francis Maude has pointed out that public spending increases over the next three years are very far from Thatcherite. But it doesn't look like that in Doncaster.

Faced with a recession in manufacturing, limits on local government expenditure and cuts to come in the social security budget, a significant section of the Labour Party will grow ever more agitated. They will want to know why Gordon Brown wants to stick to the spending limits that lost Kenneth Clarke an election rather than moving towards the position which won Oskar Lafontaine his contest.

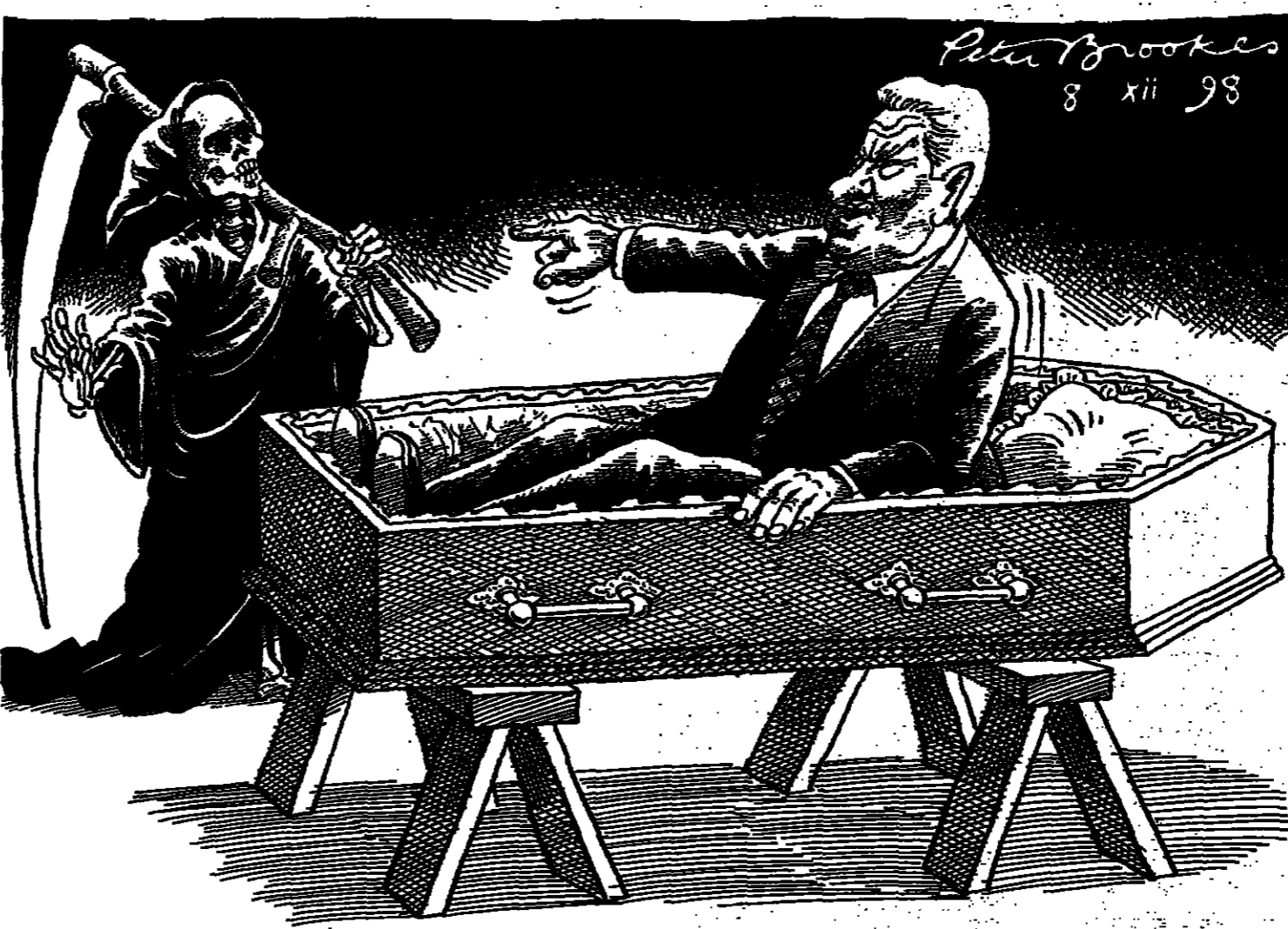
Even before Herr Lafontaine got his hands on the federal finances, he was able to pioneer his approach in the Saarland. And there will be some on Mr Brown's doorstep who will argue that what is good enough for the Saarland should be good enough for Scotland. Although the Scottish Labour Party is pledged not to use the new assembly's tax-raising powers in the first term, any Labour administration there will be under pressure to make the most of them.

The party's selection process in Scotland has been expertly managed by the trade unions to secure a large bloc of traditionalist candidates all anxious to turn Clyde-side Red. The intellectual case for such a Left turn has new advocates. Socialists are firing of Tony's timidity, as *Marxism Today* proved with its attack on Mr Blair's "Great Moving Nowhere Show". There are only so many times that you can abolish the internal market in the NHS before your activists demand more.

Gordon Brown has declared that he is moving towards a 10p rate of income tax nearly as often as the Vicar of St Albion's has read the banns on his marriage to Sarah Macaulay. And still no action. It was Europe which provided the pretext for the last left-wing challenge to Mr Brown. After Britain left the ERM in 1992, the Tribune Group criticised his support for the currency corset, arguing for a more Keynesian approach. Supporters of Robin Cook such as Roger Berry and Peter Hain were, at the time, critical of Europe because of the monetarist approach inherent in Maastricht. Now European leaders are relaxing the stays of that corset, while Gordon remains committed to restraint, the temptation for Labour's Left to cut loose is growing.

Labour's socialist wing could become Oskar's fifth-columnists. And there are few more socialist in this Government than Red Dawn Primarolo. Which is why she is being kept busy sewing up loopholes, lest the Red Devil of Saarbrücken finds more work for her idle hands.

By now you have got to the point where you recklessly firebomb a Cancer Research charity shop, Boots, Halfords, and a sports shop with a mother and baby living overhead, you are hardly going to be fobbed off by a mere royal commission. What



"YOU'RE FIRED!"

This cruel dilemma

Behind the madness of animal rights extremism lie uncomfortable truths

As I write, Barry Horne is dying. His body, wasted by 63 days without food, is irreversibly damaged. He is doing it on purpose; he is a convicted multiple arsonist whose supporters threaten murder. More robust journalists than I have managed to take the line that, frankly, it serves him right and good riddance.

Yet so unusual is Barry Horne's war on his own life that a misanthrope spreads outward from the DYK hospital where he lies. Human death is not something a civilised society can ignore. By ugly paradox, in all terrorist hunger-strikes, men who themselves have been careless about life can exploit their adversaries' more tender consciences. Barry Horne knows that we cannot ignore him. Apart from his own suffering, it is impossible not to flinch at the thought of what the doctors and nurses at York are enduring, watching a formerly healthy 46-year-old father killing himself slowly on their ward. But at least he is giving all he has. Outside in the icy winter air, complacent demonstrators talk cheerfully of his coming death as a "boost" for their cause. The most extreme of them, the Animal Rights Militia, demonstrate their reverence for life by publishing a list of those they will assassinate if he dies. How the hell did we get here?

Barry Horne is doing is an age-old tactic scale down the demand late, to make the adversary look heartless. Yes he is dying. And although many do not validate a cause, they are an indicator which prudent governments and nations should notice. If we have an explosion of animal rights extremism, there is a reason.

Granted, some of the campaigners are irrational and unstable nuts. Those who smash windows and bomb shops and post needle-bombs to Professor Colin Blakemore, of the Oxford Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience (his children collected one from the postman, and held it in their small hands a few Christmas ago), are bordering on insanity. Yet their insanity focuses on animals because animals are the perfect image of innocence, and of victimhood; they do not speak but only endure. And what we have to recognise, through our disgust, is that in the core of the madness lies a nugget of truth. We do have a duty towards animals. They do have a claim on our compassion.

This is even clearer among the less murderous campaigners who surfaced a couple of years back, barricading Brightonsea, and whose protests culminated in the accidental martyrdom of Jill Phipps under a lorry. They were at times ludicrous, but it is true that the export of veal calves represents an unnecessarily cruel subordination of animals' interests to those of economics. But, then, so does much modern food production: cows struggle to walk with chemically dosed udders; sows, by nature solicitous and organised mothers, are cramped with their piglets in conditions so filthy and stressful that they are routinely fed antibiotics. Monstrous systems of keeping and breeding produce fowl that are blind, distorted and deranged. Even some sheep are now, according to reports, being shorn at the onset of winter to make them put on weight faster

itself as the furry-purrry party, the one your pussycat would vote for. Now realpolitik has dispelled its enthusiasm in that direction; it is even beginning to understand, slowly, that there are animal welfare arguments on both sides of the hunting debate. But it has not yet come out and said clearly that there will always be a line beyond which it cannot go in taking the side of animals against human beings, and that the extremists will never be gratified.

At the weekend Professor Blake-more, in a powerful statement of the scientist's position, pointed out that no senior government figure has come forward — as George Bush's Health Secretary Louis Sullivan did — to condemn animal rights terrorism for "impeding life-enhancing research". He claims that in America, popular support for animal extremism declined sharply in the early Nineties when the Government explained, without apology or fudge, the rationale of research. To do this would be a start. Beyond that, we might do well to have a commission of inquiry into all areas of animal welfare.

I could examine both laboratories and farming. It could consider zoos, and take an unprecedented look at the pet industry. Animal welfare is an oddly quiet about this last area, probably because much of their support is from pet-owning sentimentalists; but if laboratory rats are to have their comfort considered, so should over-bred show dogs, confined indoor cats, pet-shop hamsters, and guard dogs immured in tiny yards. The balance of human need and animal welfare should be considered not only by scientists and biologists but by philosophers and psychologists and ethicists.

Some of the answers would disgust animal rightsists, some would delight them. But it is asking for trouble to leave all the thinking and all the moralising to a troubled (and sometimes not very bright) minority of zealots.

Meanwhile, out beyond the extremes of feeling and sense, Barry Horne is dying. He wouldn't do it if he knew it was useless. His strength derives from the core of uneasy truth at the heart of his madness: a truth which the rest of us would do well to reach for, and examine.

libby purves

Oh, Lord CHRISTMAS, courtesy of the arctic community. André Du-

Russia isn't working

Anna Blundy on a nation addicted to idleness

In Sunday's *Kukli* programme, Russia's version of *Spitting Image*, Boris Yeltsin was portrayed as a shipwrecked captain, languishing in his tent as Russia's politicians desperately tried to come up with a rescue plan.

Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, was shown frantically trying to radio the approaching ice-breaker IMF, which threatened to crush him men with its almighty force. "We're taking the right course!" screamed Primakov, as Yeltsin peered out of his tent to see what was going on.

Yesterday Russia's President popped out of hospital for a brief period of sacking and signing before being rushed back to bed. This system of running a country and a crippled economy seems a bit odd to your average Westerner, but to Russians, used to sticky leaders and unorthodox working practices, it is no real surprise.

Long used to thankless jobs and corrupt management, Russians are wont to take what they can and run as far as possible where work is concerned. The rewards of working for others have always been few and far between, but Westerners are constantly maddened by what they perceive as the laziness and pettiness of Russians.

George Soros, speaking at a *Time* forum in London last night, may have many a salient politico-economic reason for the failure of capitalism in the East. But it is foundering in Russia because Russians have a "live-for-the-moment attitude." They tend as a nation to behave as though they might die tomorrow because well, they might. Yeltsin with his hard drinking, erratic behaviour and sudden sackings is an obvious case in point. The brutality of Russian history and perhaps the cruelty of the Russian winter have taught the people to get what they can out of life quickly — it might soon be over.

Nikolai Karamzin, the author of a 12-volume history of Russia published in 1829, when asked to sum up Russians and their attitude to work said: "They steal."

Certainly patronising Western capitalists are of the opinion that it is communism that has ruined the "Russian work ethic." The communist took the reward out of working, yet hear gleamingly-pooped Americans in Moscow's Sibirskie Cities say: "If only we could teach them about job satisfaction and the benefits of long-term employment, then the country would really have a future." But it is not the fault of communism that Russians are wary and ironic with a bleak sense of humor and a fatalistic view of life, always assuming the worst, always nostalgic for a golden past that never actually existed.

Giles Fletcher's *Of the Rise of Cosmonauts*, written after his ambassadorial visit from Englisland in 1888, describes a country and a people that have not changed much to this day. Fletcher writes that doing business with Russians is difficult because "The Russian either believes any thing that an other man speaks, nor speaks any thing himself worthy to be believed."

As far as Russians are concerned, work is what you have to do to survive, enjoying yourself is the thing to be taken seriously. There is a famous Russian joke about two brothers who visit their father. The father pours out some vodka and says: "Now that you're here, lets drink."

"Right you are," replies the first son and they down their shots in one. "Now," says the second son, "lets o some work." "You don't half get rubbish when you're drunk," the first son tells him.

Of course, this is a vicious circle. Russians no longer believe in the American dream, therefore they cheat and steal in the knowledge that the opportunity might not be opened to them twice. But the very fact that they do this, that Russian banks have swallowed up their savings, that chronic mismanagement and corruption have effectively bankrupted the country, means that the pessimists have had their fears justified. (The words for "in a jar" in Russian are the same as for "in a bank" and most Russians know which is a safer place to keep your money.)

Perhaps if they had fully understood the principles of a market economy, perhaps if they had followed the examples of the robber barons like the Rockefellers and the Morgans, things might have worked out better. Or perhaps not. Though they claim to hate them, Russians have a grudging respect for the young mafioso millionaires their country has lately produced. Under communism breaking the law was noble activity and those who survived their prison sentences earned a slight but deep respect.

A little of that attitude still exists and there are many here who hug Sergei Mikhailov, or "Mikhailas", currently on trial in Switzerland, on suspicion of running an organised crime group, will not go to prison. They envy him his Geneva residence and his nice suits, certainly, but they acknowledge that if they had had the chance to make money effortlessly they would have taken it, whatever the risks. As they never get enough of saying here: "Work loves fools."

Number's up

GEOFFREY ROBINSON is for hire. That is certainly the impression one gains if one's fingers walk through the *Yellow Pages*. The storm-tossed Paymaster General has played a discreet note in next year's edition advertising his availability as a "political consultant". The advert, nestled between those for lobbying firms such as GPC of "Drapergate" fame, helpfully includes a direct telephone line to Geoffrey's Commons office. Requiring some advice on a delicate offshore tax matter, I sought to take advantage of the minister's fine offer and called him. His secretary referred me to another Robinson office, in Brighton.

Having already been rebuffed for breaching parliamentary rules over his outside interests, one would have thought that the multimillionaire businessman would be cautious before embarking upon what would be a flagrant breach of ministerial rules. Offering the Treasury inside track to selected businessmen appears to be covered by Cabinet Office strictures regarding "avoiding any conflict of interest" using special knowledge in ways which bring benefit to private financial interests". And was it not Geoffrey himself, in a Commons mea culpa for a scrape, a fortnight ago, who vowed: "No attempt was made by me at any time to use my position in this House to advance any commercial interest?"

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Political

A Treasury toiler insists that it was a mistake to list Robinson under "political consultant". But *Yellow Pages* points out that there is another section for "political organisations" which other MPs have chosen: "Every customer decided what category to put themselves under."

● GREETINGS from the fog monster Philip Morris (huds out) the *Diary Towers* drawbridge — bearing the inscription "This card supports Age Concern".

Low Mark

BARONESS THATCHER is heading to South Africa and the bad news for her errant son Mark is that she is taking her handbag. He is being investigated about money-lending. Little Boy Thatch says the business was not to make money, but to help: "Are you blaming me for lending money?" Now he has been left with £220,000 debts. He is also being sued for £8 million by a former chum for alleged unpaid commission on arms deals brokered while Mama was PM. Maggie is staying for Christmas, which should be jolly.

● TRICKY being a hostess while the *House of Lords* burns. Ask Baroness Fletcher, who quit the Tories last week. She welcomed guests to a Lords dinner, then dashed to tell nice Jeremy Fitzmaurice that William Hague is a rotter.

Just the job

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE has joined Oxford's game of musical chairs. The former minister is being touted as a replacement for Sir Keith Thomas when he steps down as President of Corpus Christi in 2000. It is Waldegrave's former college, and he is an honorary Fellow. But he suggests,



in his best "I want to spend time with my family" voice, that he is busy making moolah in the City: "Nobody has made any proposition to me, and the college is democratic," he tells me carefully. "It is flattering to have one's name mentioned in relation to such a job." The view across the Meadows must be more charming than Fenchurch Street.

Jail bird

ROALD DAHL depicted wickedness with great skill. Now his granddaughter, Sophie Dahl (pictured), has seen it close up. She has been filming *Mud Cow* at Wandswoth clinic. "Prison chic doesn't suit me," she writes in *Tatler*. "It doesn't matter, you're an actress," she tells herself. "Shan't bother covering up your imperfections, then." Says the make-up artist, who says Sophie looks "like the freak in *Prisoner Cell Block H*". Things go worse in the prison yard. Miss Dahl jumps around to loud music. Then an inmate screams from a window. "There is not much to shout about here, you know."

Oh, Lord

CHRISTMAS, courtesy of the arctic community. André Du-



rand, who made his name depicting Diana, Princess of Wales, as a clown in a pizza parlour, has outdone himself. He has reworked a familiar biblical scene in contemporary fashion. In *Flagellazione di Cristo* (above) seems designed to offend those with religious and artistic sensibilities. The Pope has let Durand into the Vatican three times, which only proves what a brave chap the pontiff is.

● AFTER the introduction of spaniels to the political lexicon, hunting punts have taken to naming their nupts "Cranborne". JASPER GERARD

Russia isn't working...
ma Blundy on...
addicted...
business



HOMEBUYING HORRORS

How ministers might make matters better or worse

Few processes in life cause as much stress as moving house. If the practical difficulties of viewing endless properties, finding a suitable one, completing the abundant paperwork and moving all one's belongings from one to another were not enough, there are the emotional tensions of hoping that one's offer is accepted, and then praying that the sale will not fall through. All these problems are compounded when the purchase of a new property has to be matched by the sale of an existing one. New government proposals, published yesterday, aim to reduce the period of that anxiety from the current average of 12 weeks between acceptance of an offer and handover of keys.

and professionals involved in buying and selling property found that only 1-2 per cent of transactions involved gazzumping. Some 40 per cent of buyers and sellers were dissatisfied with the process as a whole, however, with nearly half saying it had been worse than they had expected.

MALAYSIA IN COURT

The Anwar case is not about morals but about power

The recantation by a key witness of the central allegation of sexual assault throws into disarray the prosecution case against Anwar Ibrahim, and throws into turmoil the most politically important trial in Malaysia since the country gained independence. Azizah Abu Bakar, the ousted Deputy Prime Minister's former driver, drew gasps of surprise from the court when he contradicted earlier testimony that Mr Anwar had sodomised him. Mr Anwar's supporters were delighted. The prosecution was dumbfounded. Human rights activists in Malaysia and beyond who have accused Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, of seeking to ruin his adversary by besmirching his reputation are now quietly hopeful that the sensational court case will collapse.

no complaints about conditions of detention. The trial itself, however, has hardly been a vindication of Malaysia's legal tradition. The judge has veered from the capricious to the dictatorial, attempting at first to ban foreign and human rights observers from the court, and then, disgracefully, sentencing one of the main defence lawyers to three months imprisonment and threatening another.

CHEETAH CHARITY

Give this Christmas so that a cat can escape its enemies

Narrow and low among the seared grasses of the African savannah, the cheetah skulks, a predator streamlined by thousands of years of evolution to life on the plains. Its spotted coat melts into the earth and the shadows. The cheetah relies on stealth to stalk its victims. But speed carries it in for the kill. This light and long-boned creature is a supreme sprinter. Faster than any other land mammal, its claws, unlike those of related species, are only partly retractile and lack protective sheaths. They grip the ground like spiked track shoes. Rigid pads give traction on the wheeling turn. A long lithe spine and sweeping tail provide perfect balance as, outpacing its chosen prey, the cheetah snags at hindquarters with dragging dew claws, pouncing on its victim as it trips and tumbles.

The plains of the Serengeti provide a perfect habitat for the cheetah - flat for racing, but with good scrub cover. But as this natural environment is slowly eroded by spreading human habitation, animals which would once have patrolled extensive territories find themselves crowded and in competition. Built for agility more than aggression, the cheetah cannot hold its own. As lion populations grow in the national park - they have doubled over the past 20 years - the more powerful predator steals the cheetah's kill or poaches its kittens which, left unattended at dawn and dusk while their mother hunts, rely on nothing but camouflage for protection. Hyenas too are ruthless carnivores. Only one in twenty cheetah cubs will survive the predations of these fiercer animals and reach independence at 18 months of age.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Flaws in plan to modernise criminal justice system

From Sir Michael Ogden, QC

Sir, In view of the devastatingly critical Glidwell report on the Crown Prosecution Service (report, June 2), the proposal in the Government's latest White Paper (reports, December 3) that the service should be granted rights of audience in the Crown Court seems to me very strange - certainly until such time as it can be said to perform its present tasks competently.

when the White Paper was published on December 2. The White Paper insists that the service will provide accused people with "a robust and competent defence, with the interests of justice require". Sadly, many lawyers around the world will tell you that their experience of public defender systems is the opposite. The Government assures us that it does not intend a US-style public defender system. I am far from confident, however, that the scheme proposed will be any different, in practice, from many which have proved so disastrous to criminal justice in other countries.

Children at risk on the streets

From the Chief Executive of The Children's Society

Sir, You are correct to say in your leader ("Checks on Care", December 1) that one of the signs of a civilised society is that the most vulnerable of its members are not left to fend for themselves. But it is wrong to suggest that children do not have to live on the streets in Britain.

Beastly comparisons
From Mr Alistair Sampson
Sir, This Simon Jenkins fellow, penner of "A tale of two Houses" in your journal today, is clearly an urban fox. Cranborne, who your Diary tells us is shooting today, most definitely did not say he had been sacked for running "like an ill-trained spaniel", but rather "running in like an ill-trained spaniel", ie, causing birds to fly at the wrong moment.

Gibraltar's sovereignty

From Sir Robert J. Peliza

Sir, The removal of the Union Jack and its replacement by the Spanish flag at the mast of Gibraltar's Moorish Castle by a gang of Spanish fascists from over the border (report, December 7) is a reminder of the South Georgia/Grytviken incident prior to the invasion of the Falklands, induced by British appeasement of the Argentine military junta.

Council grants

From the Leader of Surrey County Council and others

Sir, The local government finance settlement announced yesterday (report, December 3, later editions) could be subtitled "Our Friends in the North". This Government is determined to transfer resources from the South East to the urban North. The settlement gives the six county councils which we lead £40 million less than the Government led us to expect in its Comprehensive Spending Review. This is a serious blow for the six million people we serve.

Whether we put up taxes or cut services, local people will understand that the responsibility lies at the Government's door. Decreasing government grant has led to increasing local taxation. Local services should be based on decisions by local politicians, accountable to local people.

Not quite cricket?

From Mr Charles Vivian

Sir, In your issue dated December 2 you illustrated a page from a 1299 book of hours, known as the *Calendar of the Ghiselles*, stating that it is believed to be the earliest picture of cricket.

'Cost-effective' councils

From Councillor Tony Dunn

Sir, Peter Riddell ("Don't forget the handbag", November 30) makes the sweeping statement: "The Blairites are right that local providers cannot at present be trusted to improve public services" without... regulation by the Treasury.

losing grant support in real terms. As a result, our police force is cutting personnel, our local schools are losing £200 per head of capitaation. Who cannot be trusted to improve local services?

Decline of the South

From Commander T. V. G. Binney, RN (ret)

Sir, According to Radio Solent this morning, undertakers in the Isle of Wight are in trouble because "fewer people in the South are dying these days".

Bailiffs and bills

From Mr Chris Tye

Sir, Mr V. R. Drinkall (letter, November 27) may have been either unfortunate or unlucky in his dealings with county court bailiffs.

Donor's dilemma

From Mr David Pearson

Sir, In sending gift parcels abroad by post (letters, November 26 and December 3) I am asked to complete a customs declaration and give the value of the contents. Should I quote a high value to impress the recipient or a low value to deter thieves?

Heard but not seen

From Mr M. G. N. Whiting

Sir, When I asked our three-year-old son Harry what he thought his mother wanted for Christmas I was impressed when he replied "Lorjusus". When he repeated this later, my wife (the better interpreter) confirmed that he was right, but identified the word as "Mortas".

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 7: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh...

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 7: The Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London...

Dinners

Company of Makers of Playing Cards The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs...



The Queen and, in the background, Princess Margaret with the Right Rev David Queen after his installation as Dean of Windsor at a special service in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, yesterday

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.J. Alexander and Miss S.F.J. Butler The engagement is announced between Donald, son of Mr James Alexander...

Royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00. The Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral of the Fleet...

will attend the 15th birthday celebrations and launch of the Coaching Hall of Fame and Coaching Awards...

Service dinner

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Prince Nikolai Romanov was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards...

Luncheons

Royal Humane Society The High Commissioner for Australia and the Deputy High Commissioner for New Zealand were the guests of honour at the annual meeting and luncheon of the Royal Humane Society...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Horace Quintus Horatius Flaccus, Roman poet, Venusian southern Italy, 65 BC...

Presbyterian writer, London 1891; Thomas de Quincey, writer, Edinburgh, 1829...

Monday Luncheon Club Baroness Hooper, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, was the principal guest at a luncheon of the Monday Luncheon Club...

Birthdays today

Miss Kim Basinger, actress, 45; Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, 75...

Royal Victorian Order

The Queen has commanded that a service of the Royal Victorian Order is to be held in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle...

Party

Healey & Baker Mr Paul Orchard-Lisle, CBE, TD, DL, Senior Partner of Healey & Baker...

Church news

New Archdeacon of Portsmouth The Rev Christopher Lawson, Vicar, Petersfield, and Rector, Burton St Mary, and Rector, Bursledon, Portsmouth...

Recorders

The following have been appointed Recorders on the North Eastern Circuit: Mr Stephen John Ashurst...

Appointment

Comptroller Robin Elliot to be Director of the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Central Street) from January 1999...

Warwickshire Lieutenancy

The Hon Sir Adam Butler has been appointed Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 9822 FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS: BIRLIE - (nee Balfour), Betty Mary AM, On the 28th November 1998...

DEATHS: SPENCER-HUGHES - On 6th December 1998 at Queen Charlotte's, Barry and Helen are proud to announce the sad arrival of their second beautiful daughter...

DEATHS: TEMERBAUM - On November 28th at St Mary's Hospital, Chelsea, (nee Pearce) and Eugene, a son, Oliver James Temerbaum, a brother for Alexander...

DEATHS: BIRNBY - On 5th December 1998, suddenly at home, Myrtle, beloved and loving mother of Phillip, loved mother of Christopher and Nicola...

DEATHS: COCKBURN - Mr Henry Dundas MC, MRCS, LRCP On December 4th 1998 in his 92nd year at home in Herfordshire and late of St Mary's Hospital...

DEATHS: BERTZ - Andrea Signorini, Died on December 6th 1998. Loved and devoted wife of Raymond and devoted mother of David and Nicola...

DEATHS: HAY - The private cremation of Robin Hay, who died on 28th November, took place on 3rd December at the Crematorium, High Road, Wembley...

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To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR TONY TANNER

Tony Tanner, Professor of English and American Literature at Cambridge, died of cancer on December 5 aged 63. He was born in March 18, 1935.

Tony Tanner was a literary critic who moved and worked in a wider world than most academics are now able to do. Although he was English and spent most of his life in Cambridge, he pioneered a fresh field of work within the university by introducing the study of American literature.

Paul Antony Tanner was born in Richmond, Surrey, and attended Raynes Park County Grammar School and went up to Jesus College, Cambridge, to read English after two years of military service in the Intelligence Corps.

On his return to Cambridge in 1960 he was elected to a fellowship at King's, where he became director of studies in English in the following year. After taking his

doctorate in 1964, he was almost immediately appointed to a university assistant lectureship. Two years later he became a reader, and in 1969 a personal chair in American literature was created for him.

This nearly exemplary tour of the cursus honorum in Cambridge was interrupted only briefly when he took up a chair at Johns Hopkins University. Academic conventions in America did not suit him, however, and he soon returned to Cambridge and to King's.

At the time he won his Harkness Fellowship, recipients of that most prestigious of academic awards generally took their two years in America at one of the great Ivy League universities in the eastern states. Tanner was highly unusual in electing to go instead to California, where he had the great good fortune to fall under the influence of the leading Mark Twain scholar, Henry Nash Smith. The doctoral dissertation that resulted — "The Use of Wonder and Naivety in American Literature" — was the first on an American subject accepted by the Cambridge English Faculty, but since at the time Cambridge did not teach American

literature, Tanner could not fall back on his research when it came to giving his first course of lectures. This had the virtue of forcing him to widen his horizons still further, and to keep his mind open to literature as a whole.

His first book, *The Reign of Wonder* (1965), gave him an unusually prominent reputation even in America, but at the time it was written he was lecturing on metaphysical poetry, on Pope, on Conrad and on Victorian poetry. Thus, though he ended up as a professor of American literature, he was never narrowly an Americanist.

Between a book on Thomas Pynchon and another on 19th and 20th-century American literature, he wrote a third on Jane Austen. *Adultery and the Novel* (1979) carried him into French literature, and *Venice Desired* (1992) included chapters on Byron, Ruskin, Proust and Henry James, the writer to whom he was most deeply committed. Most recently he had edited the whole of Shakespeare for Everyman, and at the time of his death he was planning to collect the introductions to the plays into a book and to write another on Conrad.

What characterised Tanner's work was its immense generosity, not only in the range of his concerns, but in his responses to literature. Having so lively and open a mind might have made him a ready prey to the whole range of modernist critical techniques, but he had the great gift of taking from each just exactly what was useful for him, and falling prisoner to none. His writing remained humane, almost traditional, without ever being old-fashioned. He had a quick sense for what a book was really about, and a wonderfully sharp eye and ear for the defining word or phrase, that which most clearly exposed an author's meaning. He wrote with the easy, unaffected naturalness of a man with a full mind, and the graceful sense that the important thing was the author, not the critic. The same generosity carried over into his teaching (and — some of his colleagues complained — into his examining, for he was always more ready to reward quality than to penalise ineptitude).

Students, particularly graduate students, could count on guidance that was sympathetic but never prescriptive, and on a careful reading of their work that was concerned to make the most of their thoughts rather than to impose his own.

The last years of his life were lived under the burden of a physical disability that made it difficult for him to walk, but he never asked for quarter. He got round the university as best he could, carrying with unfailing good temper the burden of teaching and administrative responsibilities. In particular he was responsible for the creation of the M Phil course in American literature, which grew out of the very successful Part II course he had earlier created.

He lectured extensively, it might be said fearlessly, in every corner of the world, always happy to report, on his return to Cambridge, how the help afforded him along the way showed the goodness of human nature. He bore up under the rigours of cancer with courage, wit and a clarity of consciousness that attested to the fineness of his spirit.

In 1979 he married Nadia Fusini, who survives him. They had no children.



Tanner brought American literature home to Cambridge

BARON ROBERT ROTHSCHILD

Baron Robert Rothschild, Belgian Ambassador to Britain, 1973-76, died on December 3 aged 86. He was born on December 16, 1911.

Robert Rothschild served his country in a series of diplomatic posts ranging from China through America to Africa, before his final posting as Ambassador in London, where he settled after his retirement in 1976. Rothschild was a friend of Britain and was concerned that she should take her place at the centre of Europe.

With the Belgian statesman Paul-Henri Spaak he worked for two years on the Treaty of Rome in the mid-1950s, and at that early stage was anxious that Britain should participate. Later, in 1974 when the Labour Government of Harold Wilson was in the process of renegotiating the terms of Britain's membership of what was then the European Economic Community, he made a powerful plea to British MPs and civic leaders not to consider leaving the EEC. "It is because we strongly hope that Great Britain will remain one of the leaders of a unified Europe... It is because we need your moral and political influence."

Robert Rothschild was born in Brussels, the son of a businessman who was descended from the family which had founded the Rothschild banking dynasty two centuries ago. He wanted to become a diplomat and, thanks to his family's friendship with the Spaaks, obtained a post in the office of Paul-Henri Spaak not long after the latter's first, and last, appointment as Belgium's Foreign Minister, in 1936.



Rothschild served Belgium in a range of diplomatic posts

Spaak's vainly cherished belief in the necessity for Belgium to remain neutral received a rude dismissal with the German invasion of the country in May 1940. Rothschild, who had joined the Army from the Reserve the previous autumn, was soon in the thick of the battles which characterised his country's brave but brief resistance to the aggressor. He was captured in the early days of the invasion and spent the next year in POW camps in Germany.

But in 1941, while en route to Brussels, he was helped to escape by the French Resistance and was taken to that part of France which had not then been occupied by the Germans. Via Spain he made his way to join the Belgian government in exile in London and was posted to the Belgian Legation in Lisbon. From there, in 1944, he went to China where he was first secretary at the Embassy in Chungking, capital of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist Govern-

ment. With hostilities between Chinese Communists and Nationalists suspended for the duration of the war against Japan, he also frequently met Chou En-lai in Chungking.

After the end of the war he became Consul-General in Shanghai, regretting in 1949, when the Communists captured the city, that the Belgian Government did not immediately recognise the Mao Tse-tung regime.

Spells in Washington and Paris followed. In both posts he was involved in the development of Nato, but in the latter he was also involved in negotiations for the formation of a European Defence Community, which, however, never came to pass.

The more fruitful route to European co-operation, the EEC, was however being travelled with greater meaningfulness, and from 1954 he was again teamed up with Spaak — now Foreign Minister again, having previously served as Prime Minister — on

the drafting of the Treaty of Rome.

After the signing of the treaty in 1957 Rothschild served successively in Yugoslavia and the Congo. He arrived in the latter post shortly after independence to find the country in chaos, with ministries by the police and army in full swing and the province of Katanga seceding from the rule of the central Government in Leopoldville.

The Belgian Government was at first determined to support the Katangan leader Moïse Tshombe against the Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba (later murdered in murky circumstances) and Rothschild was sent to the Katangan capital, Elisabethville. But when it became clear that there was dwindling international support for Katangan independence, Rothschild was compelled to make his clear to Tshombe and thereafter returned to Brussels.

For the next few years he served again as *chef de cabinet* to Spaak, by then in his third term as Foreign Minister. This involved him in negotiations with de Gaulle over the formation of a political community for Europe. But the French leader would not countenance any further extension of the form of the community.

Rothschild had further periods as Ambassador to Switzerland, 1964-66, and to France, 1966-68, before his final posting, to London. He had been appointed honorary KCMG in 1963 and on his retirement was created a baron by King Baudouin. He is survived by his wife, Mary, whom he married in 1977, and by a daughter of a previous marriage, to Renée Mattman.

CESAR



César in 1968, seeking material and inspiration for his sculpture in an industrial scrap-metal yard

César, French sculptor, died in Paris on December 6 aged 77. He was born in Marseilles on January 1, 1921.

Few avant-garde artists more popular success than César, France's best-known contemporary sculptor. Two images sum up his distinctive appeal. One is a wall or tower of crushed metal, the other is a giant thumb standing upright: the original is 12 metres high, and stands in the La Défense area of Paris, but it has been endlessly reproduced in metals, plastic, even glass, right down to the convenient desktop size of an actual thumb. For his compatriots there is a third image: the French equivalent of a Hollywood Oscar is called a César, the trophy itself having been designed by the artist in 1976.

César, when he came to prominence in the Fifties, was a novelty on the French art scene, and indeed in Europe, in that he owed as much to his self-publicising skills, his ability to appear as a newsworthy personality, as he did to his basic talent as a maker of works of art. It was a path which was soon to be followed in America by Andy Warhol and in Germany by Joseph Beuys, but César could at least claim to have been one of the pioneers of the sort of conceptual art in which the artist's life was itself the primary artwork, and the tangible evidences of artistry merely a by-product.

He was born César Baldaccini, the son of an Italian immigrant cooper, and left

school at 12 to follow his father's trade; he also worked in a bakery and did other odd jobs. But apparently the urge to art was already strong — he later liked to claim that if his father lived for barrels, his mother was obsessed with Michelangelo — and when he was 15 he began to take evening classes at a local art school. His talent was noticed, as was his extraordinary determination, and he won a scholarship to the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris.

After the war he became one of many young artists in Paris trying to scrape a living, or at least make enough money to afford the art materials he required, which in the case of a sculptor could be very expensive indeed. According to his own account, he was for years homeless, picking up what money he could from singing and dancing in existentialist Left Bank bars; even in later life he showed skill as a mimic, raconteur and natural clown.

He subsequently said that it was mainly because he could not afford to pursue a conventional career as a sculptor in bronze that he got the idea of using instead the sorts of scrap metal he could pick up anywhere. In this, perhaps quite coincidentally, he was following an important trend of the time. Similar thinking produced the Arte Povera movement in Italy, where the use of the coarsest, most everyday materials in art became almost a moral imperative: there was also a whole school of "Matiéristes" in France, placing great emphasis on the accumulation of whatever ma-

terials lay to hand. César's first one-man show was in 1954, and by the 1960s he was already enjoying something of a *succès de scandale*.

He banded together with several other like-minded artists to found a group propounding "le nouveau réalisme", a sort of cross between Arte Povera and *Matérisme*, in which the art work was to look as much as possible as though it had just somehow happened: there were abstract pictures made from shreds of torn posters which might have been removed directly from a neglected wall; and, in César's case, there were sculptures made from pieces of painted metal twisted and crushed and pressed together, as though they had been found like that in the wrecker's yard.

What made César's work distinctive was its scale: probably his biggest work was the 520-ton wall of wrecked cars he erected at the Venice Biennale in 1995, but he always tended to think in terms of whole cars rather than bits and pieces. The results, in any case, were often very decorative, exploiting the interplay of the colours the cars had once possessed; there was also a suggested critique of rampant consumerism, which made the work intellectually respectable. And so César moved with surprising speed from being an oddity on the fringes of the art world to being the darling of well-heeled collectors with essentially conventional taste.

There were always critics who complained that his work was repetitive and shallow. But in person he was always good value, ready to make himself, his art and his work-

ing processes into a spectacle. In 1968, for instance, he appeared in London at the Tate Gallery as the centrepiece of a black-tie reception, demonstrating an automatic art process he had invented, which consisted of adding various chemicals to a container of polyurethane so that that it foamed, expanded and ran over into some totally unpremeditated form which, after cooling, became a work of art in its own right.

The two principles of César's art, in other words, were compression and expansion: when he was not ramping down wrecked automobiles, he was making new plastics expand alarmingly, either with a minimum of control, or into moulds which often took the form of enormously enlarged parts of the human body; as well as the famous thumb, there was *Breast*, a huge elaboration on a mould taken from one of the dancers at the Crazy Horse nightclub.

Some felt that he had been spoilt by success, and that his earliest known works, such as the "Bestiary" figures — made (as Picasso made many of his sculptures) by following the whimsical fancies suggested by the shapes of found objects like a bicycle seat or a washboard — were in fact his most creative. But César seems to have decided early what sort of artist he wanted to be, and how best he could sell the concept. To have made such a commercial success of avant-garde art is an achievement in itself.

He married Rosine Suzanne Groult in 1960; they had a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

WARD JONES — David Robert, contrabassoonist at the Chelston and Westminster Hospitals, on 4th December aged 73, after a short illness. Much loved husband of Lady Deborah of Emma, Kate and Hattie and father of Edward, Jonathan, Louis, Benjamin and Juliana. Cremation for family only on 10th December. Services of Thanksgiving at the Gurdara Chapel, Welington Beck on Friday, 18th December at 12 noon. Donations, if desired, to The Parkinson's Disease Society at the service.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BURSTIN — Mabel died December 8th 1998. After 15 years, his widow still guides us, his presence still missed.

GEORGE — Robert, in loving memory of a beloved grandfather, Robert George DSC, Eric and Ann.

HUNT — Sir Peter, died December 8th 1997. Precious memories live forever. Beloved husband of Anne and father to Russell.

HUNT — Sir Peter, we shared a special time of love that stood the test of time. Always in our hearts, your loving family, Madeline and Russell.

NEALE — Professor Sir John and Lady Elfrida remembered always with love and respect as this happy anniversary. Stella and Harry.

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THE COURT

THE KING'S HEALTH — On Saturday the QUEEN'S Council assembled at Windsor, to receive the monthly report of the five Physicians. After the breaking up of the Council, Lord ARDEN despatched a messenger to the QUEEN, at Bath. Yesterday the following bulletin was shown at St James Palace: WINDSOR CASTLE, Dec 7 "HIS MAJESTY has been uniformly composed through the last month, and has enjoyed good general health, though HIS MAJESTY'S disorder continues unchanged."

On Saturday, soon after 1 o'clock, the Prince Regent left Carlton House for Brighton. His Royal Highness proceeded over Vauxhall Bridge.

THE PRINCESS CHARLOTTE — A poor lad, named Learwood, about 13 or 14 years of age, employed in the gardens at Claremont, attracted, by his industry and activity, the particular attention of her Royal Highness and the Prince LEOPOLD. The boy at his vacant hours had also trained, by mild treatment, a favourite couple of donkeys, for the purpose of running in a light vehicle about the park and grounds: a word from this youth was more than blows. The Princess and her beloved consort often entered into familiar

ON THIS DAY

December 8, 1817

The Times had carried news of the Court since its first issue in 1785. Princess Charlotte was the only child of the Prince of Wales (George IV). She married Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg and died in childbirth on November 19, 1817.

having purchased a suit of mourning from his own earnings, he returned, and was instantly again employed in the gardens at Claremont. The Princess, some time since, was presented with the outlines of a plan of improvements in Surrey and the adjoining counties. The high sanction with which the undertaking was honoured was mentioned to her Royal Highness, who, observing the work was by Mr PHILLIPS, the person who had long and ably promoted the cause of finding employment for the poor and ameliorating their condition. "The poor man's friend is my friend," said the Princess, and immediately directed her name and her money to be transmitted to the person alluded to.

BATH, December 5 The Queen this morning attended the Pump Room as usual. At 12 o'clock, the Queen went in her carriage to see the Lower Assembly Rooms, and then visited all the hot baths etc. It is said Her Majesty has declined the broad address or visiting that on The Duke of Clarence, Princess Elizabeth, and those of the Royal Household, went last evening to the Grand New Assembly rooms in the ball, and were very much gratified. A tradesman yesterday, on showing the Princess Elizabeth some carvings, had foregone to show her one particularly beautiful; he immediately took hold of her arm unthinkingly, and said: "Here is your Royal Highness, I have forgot this very beautiful pearl." The attendants appeared astonished to see him so rudely familiar. Her Royal Highness, however, perceiving the embarrassment of the man from his unimpaired freedom, took no other notice of the rudeness than by smiling to her attendants.

the children's father, who was upset to talk after the hearing. They tried to hammer a stake, assaulted by Mr. Rush.

OFFER WHILE STOCKS LAST. SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Federation offers small firms free Internet link

Rodney Hobson on the growing use of the Web for reaching new customers

FREE Internet access is being offered to more than 125,000 businesses. The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) will start mailing CD-Rom disks to its rapidly growing membership this week.

The offer will be extended to non-members on a one-month trial basis. These businesses will be able to retain free Internet access if they join the federation.

With Internet providers typically charging £10 to £15 a month and federation membership costing £20 in joining fees and from £50 a year on a sliding scale according to numbers employed, the smallest businesses in particular can gain Internet access with an e-mail address plus federation membership with services such as legal advice for less than the normal cost of joining the Internet.

Federation membership topped 100,000 only last year and recruitment is running at an average of 2,800 a month. In October a record 3,338 members joined.



Green: aiding ice-cream firm

The potential demand for free Internet access has been demonstrated by Dixons, which launched Freeerve to the general public from its high street shops only ten weeks ago and which now has about 300,000 registered users. Dixons says that people are joining at the rate of about 8,000 a day.

Those using the Freeerve and FSB services pay only for local calls while actually using the Internet. Dixons also charges £1 a minute for calls to its helpline. The federation helpline will cost 50p a minute.

The federation Internet access has been developed with Microsoft and two specialist IT companies, 3Com and Cobweb. The CD-Rom contains a demonstration of the Lloyds TSB Internet banking service that was introduced at the end of November. The bank says that 8,000 of its customers signed up for the service in the first week.

One million businesses and 2.5 million individuals in the UK are linked to the Internet. E-mail is the original and most used Internet function. Messages can be sent more cheaply than by fax and documents, drawings charts and video clips arrive faster than by post.

Smaller businesses are increasingly starting websites on which potential customers can learn of their existence, as shown on this page by the case study of Arden Supplies, an ice-cream ingredients firm, and the help given to it by David Green, of Wigan Borough Partnership.

Co-operative groups should be formed to build knowledge of the Internet among small businesses, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants said after a study indicated that small firms made little use of the Web. The findings are set out in *UK Business and the Information Superhighway: the Impact of the Internet on SMEs*, which is available free from 0141-309 3999.

Arden distributes ice-cream ingredients while its sister company, Excelquip, makes equipment for the trade. The firm went on the Internet just ten weeks ago, yet was cited by Barbara Roche, the Small Firms Minister, as an example of how to make the most of the opportunities offered by the Internet when she spoke at the launch of the Federation of Small Businesses initiative.

Arden is based at Wigan, Greater Manchester, where one in five companies is already buying and selling electronically.

David Green is support centre manager of the Information Society Initiative (ISI), formed by the public and private sectors to promote information technology. He also works for Wigan Borough Partnership, the local Business Link operated by the town's Chamber of Commerce Tec.

He says: "The ISI started to run awareness presentations at the start of the year covering several subjects, but the ones about the Internet are the most popular. I have been in touch with Internet service providers and Web page designers to put together a package. Then I put on my Business Link hat and obtained a subsidy for those firms that take up the offer. We have already helped more than a hundred companies to go on the Internet and the project is continuing."

Arden was among the companies that Mr Green approached. To combat the seasonal nature of the business, the Tomkins family had been looking for export markets for five years, but trade was slow to build up. Joining the Internet and designing and setting up a website would have cost £800, but the government subsidy through the local Business Link halved the bill. The site has already had 700 hits and Phil and Brian Tomkins are working to turn approaches from countries including Burundi and Mauritania into sales. The first order, from Tanzania, was won within four days of setting up the website.

Brian Tomkins says: "We have

Web warms ice-cream traders

Selling ice-cream ingredients in a British winter is a bit like offering fridges to Eskimos. As Brian Tomkins, who runs Arden Supplies, with his father, Phil, explains: "Trade is dead from the end of August until the following March. Shops stock up for the Bank Holiday and then it's finished. If it is a bad August Bank Holiday, they will not need to buy at the start of next year."



To combat the seasonal nature of his business Phil Tomkins of Arden set up a profitable website

had approaches from countries I didn't even know had electricity. There are places in Africa where you cannot get through on the phone because the lines keep going down. We could not get through to Tanzania on the phone for love nor money, yet we e-mailed the potential customer and he got back to us the next day."

Buyers who have never heard of Arden can dial into the Internet and put out a search for ice-cream ingredients. Arden's name

will come up among a list of suppliers. Arden can also conduct a similar search for potential buyers, so that it can contact new customers.

Brian Tomkins says: "I only got a computer because I borrowed my brother's one weekend. He's been going on at me for years to do this."

Mr Green has put in a bid for European Union funding that will allow another 300 local firms to go electronic. He expects at least 1,000 of the 5,000 firms in

the borough to be conducting e-commerce by the end of 2001.

He says: "To begin with, people are very sceptical because they are not comfortable with computers and are worried that they will spend a lot of money and just end up with a box on the table that they can't use. But once they can use a computer and they see other local companies doing business on the Internet, they can't get on last enough."

RODNEY HOBSON

Franchisors fall short of European prediction

THE expected rush of British franchise chains into Europe has failed to materialise, according to a report published today by the University of Westminster's International Franchise Research Centre (Rodney Hobson writes).

Professor John Stanworth, the centre's director, suggests that franchisors have seriously underestimated the cost and difficulties of crossing the Channel.

He points to a 1991 report by the British Franchise Association and NatWest Bank showing that 15 per cent of British franchise companies were operating in Europe and that 54 per cent would by 1996, taking the total from 65 to 230. Yet European Franchise Federation figures for 1997 showed only 17 UK franchisors operating elsewhere in Europe, and 17 of them had gone no further than the Irish Republic.

Professor Stanworth estimates that there are 450 franchise systems of UK origin and that 14 per cent have a European presence, virtually the same percentage as found in the BEA/NatWest study seven years ago, although his estimate substantially exceeds the European Franchise Federation data.

He says: "Despite a great deal of industry hype, it looks as if little of substance has actually happened since then. The gap appears to be simply the result of franchise companies aspiring towards export success as an icon of future progress, but finding the hurdles too great to surmount in reality."

He fears that many UK franchisors thought that setting up in Europe would cost no more than £10,000 whereas half those already there had spent £50,000 or more.



This is the worst thing about being a sole operator - the office Christmas party

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<p>RESTAURANT 50-60 Seating</p> <p>Restaurant 50-60 Seating... Tel: 0203 262 5974</p>	<p>MAKE MONEY FROM FINANCIAL BETTING</p> <p>Discover how to make £4000... Tel: 01408 261 377 (24hrs)</p>	<p>BRIDGING LOANS</p> <p>Secured on... Tel: 0117 970 2703</p>	<p>MILLENNIUM BUG</p> <p>In the UK £1.3b will be spent in 1999... Tel: 01932 842007</p>
<p>Central West End Cafe Bar</p> <p>Central West End Cafe Bar... Tel: 0203 262 5974</p>	<p>IDEA OR INVENTION?</p> <p>FOR FREE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL... Tel: 01709 360166</p>	<p>BUSINESS SERVICES</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL... Tel: 01252 402626</p>	<p>WHOLESALE</p> <p>CD-ROMS for sale... Tel: 01252 402626</p>

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Bench memos not to be disclosed Occupier can enforce interest

Parke v Law Society Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Tuckey

Bench memoranda, prepared by judicial assistants in order to identify the issues in a case and draw attention to relevant authorities, which are provided to members of the Court of Appeal prior to the hearing of an appeal...

The Court of Appeal should hold in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by Anthony Bryden Parke against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court...

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that for about two years the Court of Appeal had engaged judicial assistants to assist the court...

In a case each member of the court involved in an application for leave or an appeal had his own bundle of papers...

The relationship between lawyers employed by the criminal division of the Court of Appeal and the judiciary was also quite different from that between judicial assistants and members of the civil division...

His Lordship was confident that the court could be relied upon to recognise the importance of its responsibility to protect parties to appeal and applicants for leave to appeal...

The criticisms which he made of the particular bench memorandum which was prepared for his application for leave to appeal had been given...

Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Tuckey agreed. Solicitors: Bar Pro Bono Unit; Perry Hughes & Roberts, Birkenhead.

Ferrishurst Ltd v Wallcite Ltd Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Robert Walker

At a person in actual occupation of a part of the land comprised in a registered disposition could enforce against the registered proprietor any overriding interest which he had either in the land, or part of the land, or on the remainder...

Section 3(1)(iv) of the 1925 Act "overriding interests" were defined, so far as material, as all encumbrances, interests, rights and claims in land which are not registered but which are not registrable...

The rights of every person in actual occupation of the land or in receipt of the rents and profits thereof, save where enquiry is made of that person and the rights are not discoverable...

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed. Solicitors: JPMcKenzie & Co, Waller Jennings & Son.

Regina v Stanley Before Lord Justice Brooke, Lord Justice Kay and Mr Justice Maurice Kay

A count in an indictment charging an offence under section 72(4) of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 in respect of two different aspects of the duty to account for value-added tax...

The Crown did not accept that the appellant's argument was limited to the extent reflected by the proposed basis of plea and concluded, in the light of that proposed plea, that the single count indictment might have been flawed...

The Crown did not accept that the appellant's argument was limited to the extent reflected by the proposed basis of plea and concluded, in the light of that proposed plea, that the single count indictment might have been flawed...

Lord Justice Kay, giving the judgment of the court, said that when arraigned the appellant pleaded not guilty but subsequently indicated, through his legal advisers, that he was prepared to change his plea to guilty...

Count in VAT indictment defective

The grounds upon which the appeal were brought were (i) that the original indictment was not defective within the meaning of section 5(1) of the Indictment Act 1915...

Lord Justice Kay, giving the judgment of the court, said that when arraigned the appellant pleaded not guilty but subsequently indicated, through his legal advisers, that he was prepared to change his plea to guilty...

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Time when domicile of co-defendant is relevant

Petrograde Inc and another v Smith and others The time when the domicile of a co-defendant becomes relevant for the purposes of the Brussels Convention 1968 was the time the proceedings were originally issued...

Lord Justice Tuckey, giving the judgment of the court, said that when arraigned the appellant pleaded not guilty but subsequently indicated, through his legal advisers, that he was prepared to change his plea to guilty...

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES SCOTCH OFFICE NOVEMBER 1998 PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT 1936 RAILTRACK (WAVERLEY STATION) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application by Petitioner under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1936...

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OLYMPIAN DEVELOPMENT LTD NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the company is in liquidation. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the company is in liquidation. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the company is in liquidation.

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PUBLIC NOTICES. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament by HFC Bank plc and Beneficial Bank PLC for leave to introduce to the present Session a Bill...

the children's names was too... they tried to hammer a stake... assumed by Mr. Rush. OFFER WHILE STOCKS LAST. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE QUANTITIES.

Double for Dublin and Dubliner

The Fantasy League monthly £1,000 winner from County Dublin owed much to Hurricane Dion, Nick Szczepanik reports

The Times Fantasy League had a player of the month award, there would be a shortlist of only one for the November prize. Dion Dublin's 21 points were evidence of an exceptional 30 days of goalscoring for Aston Villa.

Thus it was more or less inevitable that Dublin would be in the team selected by winner of the Times Fantasy League monthly prize of £1,000 plus £100 worth of sports equipment. Less predictable was that the winner would, in turn, be a Dubliner.

Tony Murnaghan, of County Dublin, in the Republic of Ireland, had the Villa man to thank for over a quarter of the 81 points accumulated by his selection, Tony's Terrors.

His win was some consolation for the fate of the team, he has supported since the mid-sixties, West Ham United, who were thumped 4-0 at Leeds - too late, fortunately, to affect Ian Pearce's score adversely, although it may count against Tony's Terrors at the end of the season, as they attempt to improve on their current sixth place and go for the title.

Mr Oxlade, a Tottenham supporter, included David Ginola in his team, Phil's Hotshots, but his big points-scorer was Jason Euell of Wimbledon (see opposite and right), Leeds United's Jimmy Floyd Hasselbank and Steve Guppy of Leicester.

"Jason Euell was cheap, and had been going through a good spell earlier in the season," Mr Oxlade said. "Hasselbank was also in very good form earlier. Guppy always scores a lot of points, because he takes free kicks and corners and Leicester have a lot of tall players."



Table titled 'The current Tony's Terrors' listing players and their points for November.

Table titled 'Phil's Hotshots' listing players and their points for November.

Table titled 'Jason Euell' listing players and their points for November.

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK



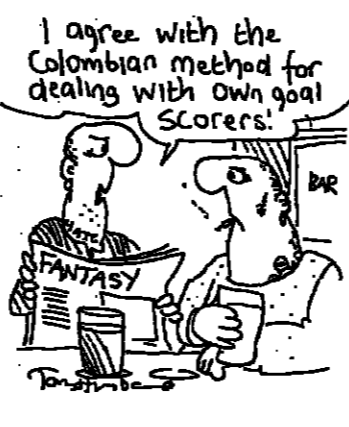
Equally at home in the front line and powering forward from midfield, Jason Euell of Wimbledon, who hits his Bad Boys Inc. among his favourite listening, could be a good buy for your Fantasy League team. Why not give yourself a seasonal treat and sign him in time for Christmas, and have a Cool Euell Yule?

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

Large table listing the top 100 Fantasy League players with their names, teams, and points.

As I was saying . . .

It's been an inconclusive sort of week, hasn't it? How do you mean? Well, the big game at Villa Park ended in a draw, and Arsenal were goalless at Derby, and Chelsea the same at Everton.



I agree with the Colombian method for dealing with own goal scorers!

Not at all. Own goals are part and parcel of defending. If you're doing your job, you're going to be in there in the danger area when the ball comes flying across, and the occasional untucky deflection is an occupational hazard.

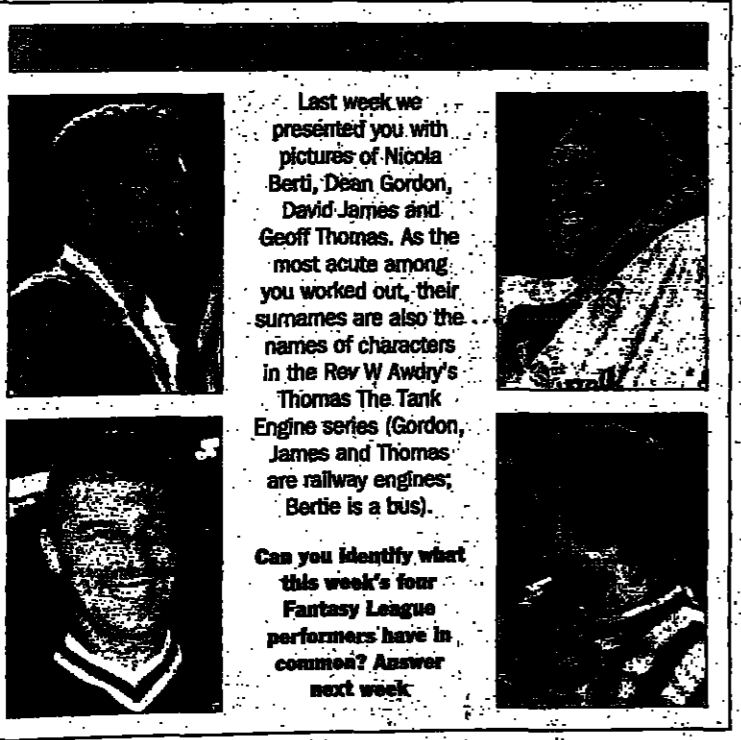
CHECK YOUR SCORES TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE TOP TEN

Table listing the top ten Youth League players.



Patrik Berger: features in the top Fantasy team



Last week we presented you with pictures of Nicola Bertie, Dean Gordon, David James and Geoff Thomas. As the most acute among you worked out, their surnames are also the names of characters in the Rev W Awdry's Thomas The Tank Engine series (Gordon, James and Thomas are railway engines; Bertie is a bus).

PRIZES section with Puma logo and details of prizes for Fantasy League winners.

FANTASY LEAGUE FAXBACK SERVICE section with details of the faxback service and contact information.

Shearer makes his point at the top of the list

WE HAVE already featured the up and coming youngsters in The Times Fantasy League, so it's time to look at the more experienced campaigners.

You can be sure that a Fantasy League donkey will not turn out to be a Maradona overnight, and conversely a player with a proven past record is not transformed into Andreas Andersson in the space of a week.

Tissier peaked in the mid-Nineties with consecutive season totals of 95 and 91, which will not be surpassed by another midfielder for a long time to come.

BEST-EVER XI

Table listing the Best-Ever XI Fantasy League players.

to get into double figures. In the light of this, if you have either of these two players in your side it could be wise to delve into the transfer market.

NEWS

Post Office to lose its monopoly

The Post Office is to lose its monopoly on delivering letters costing less than 1p under plans set out by Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary.

It will also be ruled by a new regulator, but the Post Office will be able to keep most of its profits, rather than give them to the Treasury, and be allowed to buy overseas companies. Mr Mandelson set out proposals to give the Post Office more commercial freedom after backing down from a planned partial privatisation scheme.

Human cloning recommendation

Experts from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority will today recommend that the Government allow research into human cloning techniques to make spare parts for transplants or to help treat diseases.

Lords reform

The Government is to stamp on the option of a wholly elected second chamber when it announces the Royal Commission on the reform of the House of Lords next month.

Blair to be neutral

Tony Blair is to remain neutral in the contest to be Labour's candidate for the London mayor amid fears that his endorsement would be the kiss of death.

Cost of a house

The cost of selling a home in Britain will rise by about £400 under Government proposals to speed up the house-buying process.

Freed after 40 years

A murderer who escaped execution and then went on to kill a second time was set free yesterday after serving almost 40 years behind bars.

Eruption predictions

A volcanic eruption has been successfully predicted with the use of satellites. Researchers detected the impending eruption of Pacaya, in Guatemala, a week before it began.

Activists jailed

A husband and wife were jailed yesterday for their involvement in a pitched battle with riot police during a demonstration at a cat breeding farm targeted by animal rights protesters.

Claims retracted

A key witness in the allegations against Anwar Ibrahim, former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, denied yesterday that he was sodomised by him.

A star is buried

The Japanese taste for watching people suffer on TV has opened up an avenue to media stardom for a British man attempting to beat the world record for being buried alive.

Yeltsin sacks four

Boris Yeltsin emerged from hospital yesterday, sacked four members of his administration and then returned whence he had come to continue his recovery from pneumonia.

Architect killed wife

A "gentle, creative" architect killed his wife after becoming convinced that she was a witch who wanted to steal his soul, a court heard yesterday.

The Y2K is coming

In Beverly Hills they spread the word at local emergency preparedness fairs. In Washington they urge Christmas shoppers to buy thermal underwear. Meet the Y2K suburbanites.

Foster's spectacular

Sir Norman Foster's designs for the home of the Greater London Authority, revealed yesterday, are the most spectacularly seductive of his career.

Hedgehogs quick to bounce back

Injured or weak hedgehogs released into the wild after convalescing in captivity stand an excellent chance of survival, scientists have found. Many complete heroic long-distance journeys after being released: two even swam across the River Stour in Devon. Even though many have little or no experience of life in the wild, nearly all adapt quickly.



The Mars Global Surveyor has enabled NASA to create a three-dimensional image of the planet, such as this shot of its north pole.

BUSINESS

Microsoft hope: The US Justice Department's anti-trust case against Microsoft trusted a setback when the state of South Carolina withdrew its action against the software company.

SPORT

Football: David Batty, the England midfielder, is due to re-sign today for Leeds United. Newcastle United accepted an offer of £4.4 million.

ARTS

Whitechapel star: The German artist Rosemarie Trockel revisits her favourite themes of frailty, femininity and femininity in her exhibition at London's Whitechapel Gallery.

ENTERTAINMENT

Top tapper: Despite Michael Flatley's reputation as a prima donna, Noreen Taylor finds him earnest and engaging.

Output down: UK manufacturers suffered a 0.7 per cent fall in output in the three months to October, fuelling fears of a deepening recession in industry.

Cricket: Graham Thorpe was effectively ruled out of the third Test match, and possibly the rest of England's tour, when his troublesome back forced him to retire hurt against Victoria.

West End art: Craigie Aitchison's current show, split between two West End galleries, clearly illustrates the Scottish artist's idiosyncrasies.

Cursing curse: Peter has Tourette syndrome, which makes him swear loudly and punch himself. The condition is baffling to medical science but Peter's mother is doing all she can to raise awareness.

BAe Eurotrak: Shares of British Aerospace rose almost 5 per cent after the company admitted it was in talks that might lead to an alliance with a European firm, possibly Germany's DASA.

Rugby union: Geoff Cooke, the former England and British Isles manager, resigned as chief executive of Bedford after six months of financial struggle.

Veteran rocker: Rod Stewart vows his army of faithful fans as he launches his tea-date British tour in Glasgow.

Darkest hour: Jon Ashworth describes coming to terms with the death of his elder brother in a car crash.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 5.2 to 5,576.7. The pound fell 120 cents to \$1.6522 and 1.78 pfennig to DM2.7697.

Racing: Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent of The Times, won the Bollinger Tipsters' Challenge, beating a field of more than 70 tipsters.

Committed conductor: Mark Elder's long-held passion for Rimsky-Korsakov comes to fruition in London this week when he conducts the London Philharmonic in an all-Russian event.

Mad or bad: Are Britain's insanity laws, rooted in the 19th century, adequate to deal with the problem of mentally disturbed defendants?



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

HOMES

Mark of distinction: does your listed home deserve a plaque on the wall?

INTERFACE

Christmas computers: a buyer's guide to the best hardware in Santa's sack

Government law reforms: children in care; Gibraltar; council grants; earliest cricket; bailiffs; publishing poetry; Christmas post.

Halfway house: When family relationships break down, contact centres help to mend, or at least to limit, the damage.

Professor Tony Tanner, literary critic; Baron Robert Rothschild, ambassador; César, French sculptor.

NATO remains a military alliance without a clear purpose in the wake of the Cold War. Washington's answer to this identity crisis has been mischievous. First it pushed through the admission of three new members from Central Europe without adequately weighing potential consequences. Now it is pressing ideas that could ultimately lead to transforming the alliance into a global strike force against threats to American and European interest. Such a role would go far beyond any sensible mandate.

Government law reforms: children in care; Gibraltar; council grants; earliest cricket; bailiffs; publishing poetry; Christmas post.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,969

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27 indicating starting positions for words.

- ACROSS
1 Many at Waterloo let loose, having run into defensive construction (8,5).
9 Finishes off can, so save as form of starch (7).
10 Constant detail manoeuvring in fortress (7).
11 Transported from Pacific island, none the less (5).
12 Cows okay in marshes (9).
13 Uplifted and jubilant about day of victory coming round (8).
15 Fall back on peak, out of energy (6).
18 Servant for Dracula? (6).
19 Company in retreat learning to follow the flag (8).
22 Prompt arrival of English leading to drunken ribaldry (5,4).
24 Fish taken by fellow's cast (5).
25 A wicked lot getting lit up when match is over? (7).

Writers' Cramp and other word games including a 10x10 grid and a 10x10 grid with letters.

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions
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Vat Country 410 328 NL Ireland 410 341

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153 observations world wide
by Phone dial 0330 411214
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Motoring
Europe Country by Country 0330 401 882
European fuel costs 0330 401 886

Car reports by fax
Dial 0330 410 399
the AA reports of 775 cars

HIGHEST & LOWEST
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Rozzano, Cornwall, 12C (55F); lowest day temp: Lowestoft, Suffolk, 0.0C (32F); highest rainfall: Stormy, Outer Hebrides, 0.22in; highest sunshine: Gilmor, Norfolk, 4.2hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 45.3% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

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FORECAST

General: milder. England and Wales will start cloudy with rain in many places. The rain will soon clear from the north and west, leaving a bright afternoon with sunshine and a few showers. Southern England, the east Midlands and East Anglia will stay overcast well into the afternoon, but most of the rain will become confined to the extreme south-east by lunchtime. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a blustery day with sunny spells and showers.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles: mild but dull morning with outbreaks of rain. Drier this afternoon, but it will stay cloudy. Brisk southwest wind. Max 11C (52F).

E England, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England: dry overnight. Wind southwest, fresh. Max 12C (54F).

Outlook: mild but changeable and often windy with rain at intervals. The heaviest rain will be in the west with the best of the drier and brighter interludes in the east.

AROUND BRITAIN - YESTERDAY
Table with columns for location, sun, rain, wind, etc.

AROUND BRITAIN - TOMORROW
Table with columns for location, sun, rain, wind, etc.

AROUND BRITAIN - WEDNESDAY
Table with columns for location, sun, rain, wind, etc.

AROUND BRITAIN - THURSDAY
Table with columns for location, sun, rain, wind, etc.

AROUND BRITAIN - FRIDAY
Table with columns for location, sun, rain, wind, etc.

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday. X = not available



Change to chart below from noon: low B will encroach low U as it moves NE and deepens. Low Q will lose its identity; high H will retreat SE, and merge with high C.

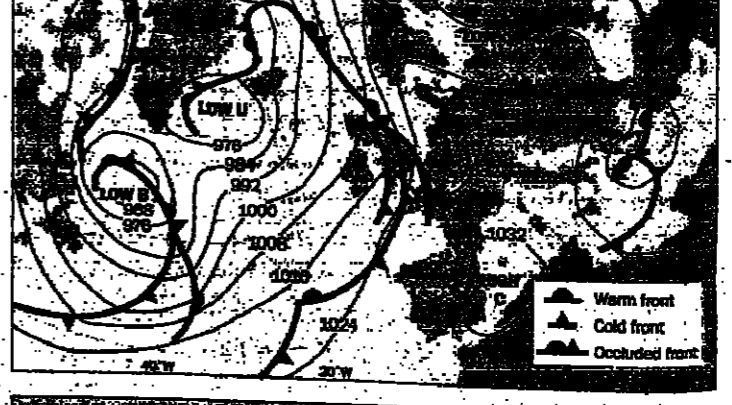


Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, PM, HT. Lists weather conditions and temperatures for various cities.

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY



ECONOMICS

Anatole Kaletsky on the Blundersbank's last hurrah PAGE 31



ARTS

Is he still sexy? Rod Stewart hits the road again PAGES 35-37



LAW

Mad or bad: how the courts deal with insanity PAGES 39-41

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY DECEMBER 8 1998

US state drops Microsoft suit

By Kimberly McDonald

BILL GATES breathed a little easier yesterday when the state of South Carolina announced that it was pulling out of the anti-trust suit against Microsoft...

Pressure on Gates eases as Netscape deal prompts withdrawal

alliance with Sun Microsystems. The proposed merger "proves the forces of competition are working", Mr Condon said.

jumped to a new high on the news, briefly trading at \$132.75 before settling back to \$131.25, up \$4.875 in heavy afternoon trading.

ment can still press their case with a straight face," Mr Gates said. "Three of the biggest competitors are banking together and yet the Government is still trying to slow us down."

The AOL-Netscape merger has nothing to do with whether there are 20 parties or one party, and everything to do with the evidence that's in the court," said Mitchell Pettit, executive director of ProComp, a coalition that supports the Government's case.

as Microsoft has," said Ross Rubin, senior research officer at Jupiter Communications. The suit alleges that Microsoft engaged in predatory, anti-competitive practices.

practices have been perfectly legal. Company attorneys likewise argued that the AOL-Netscape deal showed that competition in the computer software industry was alive and well.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including Stock Market Indices, US Rates, London Money, Sterling, and North Sea Oil.

Recession warning adds to rate cut pressure

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

EVIDENCE of further weakness in manufacturing industry yesterday prompted some City economists to judge that Britain is already in recession.

cent in October. Over the past three months, growth in sales has been virtually nonexistent at 0.1 per cent.

Bae fuels merger rumours

By Adam Jones

BRITISH Aerospace fuelled speculation that it is close to a "breakaway" merger with DaimlerChrysler Aerospace (DASA) when it said discussions about a possible joint venture with DASA were at a "relatively advanced stage".

Manufacturing output fell 0.4 per cent in October, according to the Office for National Statistics, a fall of 0.5 per cent from a year ago.

Mr Saunders said that he expected base rates to continue falling rapidly with a further quarter-point cut announced at the end of the MPC meeting on Thursday and rates falling to 5 per cent late next year and possibly even lower in 2000.



George Soros, who gave the euro strong support, saying it would come to rival the dollar

Soros says world is in grip of a bear market

By Janet Bush

GEORGE SOROS, the international financier, said yesterday that although the global economy is probably past the worst of the recent crisis, he is still of the view that world exchanges are in the grip of a bear market.

He noted that one third of the world was in recession and that there was an oversupply of almost all commodities.

would come to rival the dollar as a reserve currency. He said: "I think the monetary system that has been established is not totally without flaws but I think the flaws will be corrected because it is realised how important it is to have a stable single currency."

Scots power group shares fall as US deal unveiled

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

SCOTTISHPOWER yesterday became the first UK utility to move into the US market with a £12.5 billion merger with PacifiCorp.

chase of Manweb, the north-west regional electricity company, and Southern Water. PacifiCorp brings in 1.4 million new customers in six western states including California.

The deal, effectively a takeover, propels ScottishPower into the top ten of world utility companies and ends a year-long search for a US partner.

Efficiency plans drawn up by PacifiCorp and revealed to ScottishPower when the two sides began talks three months ago include the sale of non-core businesses, about 1,500 job losses and cost savings of about \$30 million (£8 million).

Barclays gives debt warning

By Richard Miles

BARCLAYS, the bank hit ten days ago by the abrupt departure of Martin Taylor as chief executive, gave warning yesterday that second-half provisions for bad and doubtful debts were likely to be higher than in 1998's first six months.

Egg's instant access claims are laid to rest

By Richard Miles, Banking Correspondent

EGG, the direct banking operation of Prudential, has bowed to consumer pressure and dropped the term "instant access" from the marketing literature for its savings account paying 8 per cent interest.

ASA is the latest in a series of start-up difficulties at Egg. Earlier it had been accused of misleading customers about access rights because of a clause in the smallprint that said Egg had the right to retain savers' money for up to 60 days.

Advertisement for John Charcol mortgage with text: 'We hold that each man is the best judge of his own interest.' At 6.29% (6.5% APR) capped for five years, we judge this to be one of the best interest rate deals around. JOHN CHARCOL 0800 71 81 91

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Davies the global regulator?



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

If headhunters were asked to find a regulator for the world's financial markets, they might find themselves with the shortest of shortlists. God would be the most obvious contender for this high on impossible role.

But it seems that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is wedded to the idea of trying to impose some international policing on the money men. The idea came to him when the mayhem in the markets was at its worst, with fallout from the Long Term Capital Management debacle raising questions about the stability of the world financial system.

As finance ministers gathered to share their problems and fears, the idea found echoes from America and from Germany. Now the markets have calmed down and the idea might have been left to make a regular appearance in the debate whenever two or three finance ministers gather together. Mr Brown, however, apparently wants action to result from the talking.

He is right not to trust the current relative calm in the markets. Whether a regulator can stop another LTCM or losses in Russian bond markets is another matter. But he is determined to try, and hence it seems he is already pondering where he might find the mastermind for his plan.

The rumour is that his antenna has tuned into Canary Wharf, where Howard Davies has been

assembling Britain's super-regulator. The Financial Services Authority remains at the virtual stage in many ways, with the Bill that turns it into reality not now due to hit the statute book until 2000. But Mr Davies has done the creative thinking necessary to establish the organisation. There are important technicalities to be ironed out, hence the lengthy legislative timetable, but the FSA framework is in place.

No doubt Mr Davies will reassure the Commons Treasury Select Committee of this today when he appears for a quizzing. It is doubtful that any member of the committee would ask him whether he might be interested in taking on the challenge of constructing a global FSA. However, the likelihood is that he would feature on Gordon Brown's role of potential contenders.

And although it would not be everyone's idea of the dream job, it might appeal to Mr Davies. The bicycling football fan has done much at the FSA to confound critics who said that his skills were purely front-of-house, a reputation that attached itself to him in his days at the CBI. This was never likely to be a fair assessment of someone who had,

like Archie Norman of Asda and Mr Davies's CBI successor, Adair Turner, qualified as a McKinsey man.

Since his spell at the CBI, Mr Davies has done a turn as Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. That constitutes a CV that few applicants for the role of world financial regulator could emulate. If the job is to be done — and that may be questionable — he could be the man to do it.

Mandelson fails to deliver

Since not even Tarzan was brave enough to swing into action and privatise the Post Office, we should not be too surprised that Peter Mandelson has ducked the challenge.

Michael Heseltine's privatising instincts were curtailed by fears of the votes that would be lost at the prospect of closing rural post offices. As it turned out,

he should not have worried: a few discontented country voters would not have salvaged the Conservatives from election defeat and at least a privatised Post Office would have been some consolation.

The very urban Peter Mandelson would probably have been prepared to inconvenience a few country dwellers but he too has been dissuaded from turning over the Post Office to the private sector, at least for the time being. Yesterday, he was still refusing to rule out an eventual partial sale while also insisting that his statement had removed the cloud of uncertainty that has been hanging over the organisation. Spin doctors do not see life as others see it.

But while he did not choose to dwell on it, the factor that probably weighed heaviest in the Secretary of State's decision not to privatise was the reaction of the trade unions. Britain's record of improving labour relations owes

little to the posties. The organisation claims a shameful place at the top of the table for days lost through industrial action. Despite the new technology sweeping the country, the Royal Mail is still capable of demonstrating the way in which large slices of the community still depend heavily on the postal services.

At least now we will see those services subject to competition. That may prompt the Post Office to improve its act and, if it does not, then the business will ebb away. When Mr Mandelson, or his successor, eventually decides that the time is right to privatise, he could be faced with a moribund company.

Prosperity, not mere survival, depends on the Post Office having the capital to go into the world and fight for business. Privatisation is the essential precursor to that. A fine example was in evidence yesterday as Scottish Power effectively took over the American PacifiCorp. The deal

lacked any element of surprise but is still remarkable. A few years ago it would have taken a flight of imagination to envisage the West Coast of the US being provided by power by a company headquartered in Glasgow. Ian Robinson was allowed to have that imagination.

Not the right environment

It is noble in the extreme of Anita Roddick to volunteer the services of Body Shop to help other companies to audit their green credentials. To see this vociferous critic of the City going into partnership with KPMG will cause some wry amusement but Ms Roddick will rise above the critics. Her motives are of the highest — and if the venture should earn some cash, shareholders will surely not carp.

For the sad truth is that Body Shop's environmental credentials have latterly done little for its profits. This may be the flaw that KPMG reaches in trying to sign up clients for the new social and environmental audit.

The most recent annual report boasted an interesting green leaf

on the cover and introduced readers to the company's best selling new range, based on hemp.

The figures in the report are rather less cheery. Had it not been for an extraordinary charge relating to the French franchisees, profits in the last financial year would have been barely changed on the previous twelve months. This year, even allowing for the effects of hemp, they will be look even less jolly.

Undaunted, Ms Roddick maintains that 'in five years time, it will be seen as second-rate business practice not to be publishing information on social and environmental performance'. And KPMG is clear about just what first-rate business practice will mean to the firm: fees of up to £20 million over the next three years.

One jump ahead

IN ITS search for a way out of the recession into which it has plunged, the UK textiles industry could do worse than follow the lead of Henry Schuldenfrei. The chairman and chief executive of Worthington Group, which earlier this year acquired the M&S supplier Jerome, attributes much of his company's success in withstanding the worst ravages of the downturn to strong demand for its ropes for bungee jumping. This is one company that will bounce back quickly from recession.

GKN in American deal to boost car parts role

By ADAM JONES

GKN is buying Interlake, a debt-ridden US engineer, for \$553 million (£335 million). The acquisition is designed to strengthen GKN's position in automotive and aerospace components and comes despite bearish predictions for car sales next year.

GKN yesterday admitted that it expects the market for its car parts to worsen. However, shares in the UK engineering group rose 1 1/2p to 67 1/2p.

C.K. Chow, chief executive of GKN, wants 20 per cent of group sales to come from the US by the end of 1999. The Interlake deal will take the

proportion to about 16 per cent.

Interlake is struggling under debts of £170 million. The great majority of the loans are accruing interest at 12 per cent or more. In the nine months to September 27, Interlake made pre-interest operating profits of £25.8 million on sales of £240.1 million.

The debt, plus £119 million of further liabilities, meant that shareholders' funds had withered to an £88.5 million deficit.

Interlake owns 80 per cent of Hoeganaes, the leading US producer of powder metal, which is used to make car

parts more cheaply than traditional forging methods. Hoeganaes is a supplier to the GKN Sinter Metals subsidiary.

The two will be managed separately and GKN played down suggestions that Hoeganaes's relationship with other customers will suffer because of GKN's ownership. The other investor in Hoeganaes, a Swedish company called Högana, is expected to remain involved.

Interlake also owns Chemtronic, which makes and repairs engine parts for aircraft.

In a trading statement accompanying the purchase announcement, GKN said that

its businesses are trading "satisfactorily". It added: "Whilst the market environment for automotive operations is likely to be less favourable, these businesses are strongly positioned to compete in a challenging environment." Mr Chow said that this should not be seen as a profit warning.

Although reluctant to forecast too specifically, he indicated that GKN expects the US and European market to decline by up to 4 per cent next year. Mr Chow said GKN's automotive market share is rising because of contract wins, strengthening its position in any industry downturn.

EU to decide on London Elec deal

THE European Commission is to have the final say on whether Electricité de France (EdF) is allowed to buy London Electricity for almost £2 billion (Adam Jones writes).

It will be the first UK electricity supply deal to have its fate decided on competition issues by Brussels.

EdF's purchase of London is controversial because the French state-owned company already supplies 57 per cent of UK electricity through a cross-Channel interconnector.

Offer, the UK electricity regulator, said yesterday that the EU will have exclusive jurisdiction. This will not stop Ofwat from investigating the deal before advising the Government on issues to raise with Brussels. Offer is inviting comments before December 14.

Profits leap by 55% at Jarvis

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL action by members of the RMT trade union failed to stop Jarvis, the construction and rail infrastructure management group, from posting a 55 per cent jump in pre-tax profits.

Turnover for the six months to September 30 was up 118 per cent to £279 million and the company said it had future orders worth £1.2 billion.

Delays to work in progress caused by industrial action did not affect profits but there was a knock-on effect on Jarvis's cashflow. The amount of money tied up in working capital increased as projects hit by the action were pushed from the first to the second half.

The assimilation of Stream-

line, a road maintenance company Jarvis bought for £190 million in May, also worsened the look of the cashflow statement, but Jarvis said this was only because of the seasonality of Streamline's operation.

Jarvis made taxable profits of £19.7 million against £12.7 million in the same period last year. Operating profits before £3 million of redundancy costs and £2.8 million of goodwill write-offs were up by 124 per cent to £29.3 million.

Earnings per share, calculated before the goodwill write-off, were 13.3p up from 10.2p. The dividend was lifted 40 per cent to 3.5p from 2.5p.

Tempus page 30

Car dealer admits to bid talks

EVANS HALSHAW got caught up by the takeover fever sweeping the forecourt yesterday as the nationwide car dealer admitted that it is in talks with an unnamed suitor (Fraser Nelson writes).

Shares in the company jumped 30 per cent to 211 1/2p as City speculators immediately named rival groups Pen-dragon and Sanderson Bramall as potential bidders.

Del Barrett, analyst with Peel Hunt, said a bid is likely to come at a premium to the company's net asset value of 226p a share, possibly as much as 250p a share, valuing the company at £30.5 million.

Evans Halshaw runs 70 dealerships across the country, and sells a broad mix of cars. Three months ago, it reported declining car sales.

14 DESTINATIONS.
12 COUNTRIES.
(AND YOU THINK YOU TRAVEL A LOT)

Lufthansa UNITED AIRLINES BRITISH AIRWAYS AIR CANADA VARIG

STAR ALLIANCE
The airline network for Earth.

the children's father, was too upset to talk after the hearing. They tried to hammer a stake assaulted by Mr Rush.

OFFER WHILE STOCKS LAST. SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK



FTSE little changed as investors wait on MPC

INVESTORS have decided to put everything on hold ahead of this week's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting. Share prices enjoyed an early mark-up but the absence of any follow-through meant they were unable to maintain the pace and closed narrowly mixed.



Richard O'Brien, second left, with ScottishPower's Ian Russell, finance director, Murray Stuart and Ian Robinson

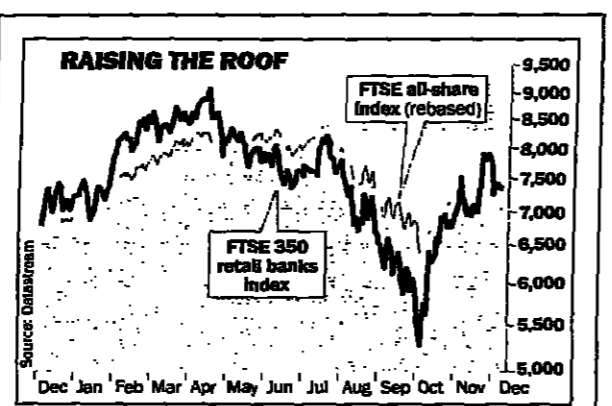
Brokers such as BT Alex Brown remain cautious about prospects. Bob Semple says we remain in a bear market, reflecting the slowdown in economic growth and corporate earnings. But JP Morgan, the US investment bank, is confident that the MPC will provide a boost to the economy this week with a half-point cut in rates.

There was a lukewarm response to ScottishPower's £4.7 billion bid for PacificCorp, the US electricity utility whose chief operating officer is Richard O'Brien. City speculators had been pinning their hopes on a bid for ScottishPower, whose chairman is Murray Stuart and chief executive Ian Robinson, from an American utility, or, at the very least, the demerger of its Scottish Telecom or Detron Internet arms.

amid suggestions that its proposed merger with Siebe may be thrown into doubt if GEC up 3p at 537p, steps in and makes a counter bid. Siebe firmes 2p to 218p. ICI touched 587p before ending the session 24p dearer at 570p. Lehman Brothers, the securities house, has begun covering the company and has kicked off with an "outperformer" recommendation after setting a target price for the shares of 700p.

operation on the Athens market. Vodafone still controls more than 50 per cent of the business which was capitalised at \$4.6 billion (£2.8 billion). The shares then went on to establish a 25 per cent premium in first-time dealings. Legal & General fell 15p to 741p as Credit Lyonnais Securities, the broker, urged clients to switch into Norwich Union, up 9p at 437p. J Sainsbury retreated 13p to 462p after Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, lowered its recommendation from "market outperformer" to "market performer".

Aspen Group dropped 9p to 40p and hoisted the white flag by putting the "for sale" sign up after issuing a profits warning. The marketing and media specialist expects further losses in the second half and does not have the necessary funds to support its investment plans. Bid talks with Photobition Group, 11p firmer at 227p, and Quasius, the US investment management company, broke down earlier this year. The breakdown in takeover talks left Blagden Industries nursing a loss of 37p at 136p. The chemicals specialist announced it had received a bid approach back in October and the speculators were looking for an offer of 150p a share. Evans Halsbain into top gear. The motor distributor, up 50p at 211p, said it had received an approach which could lead to an agreed bid at a premium to the ruling share price. Firestone Diamonds came under selling pressure on AIM with the price dropping 15p to 66p. The company knows of no reason for the fall and says all its projects are on target.



ON THE day the Government vowed to shake up the house buying system in England and Wales, shares of the main mortgage providers came under the hammer. Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, is believed to have turned bearish of the former building societies in the belief that competition and market conditions generally are making life tough for them. Unfortunately CSFB was unavailable for comment. Even so, losses were recorded in Alliance & Leicester, down 41p to 850p. Halifax, 17p to 847p, Abbey National, 8p to 117p. Woolwich, 14p to 35p, and Royal Bank of Scotland, 9p to 94p. Alliance & Leicester was also hit by cautious comments from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker. Brokers remain convinced that the tough trading conditions will eventually lead to the long-awaited consolidation of the industry. But they point out that the current high ratings remain a stumbling block.

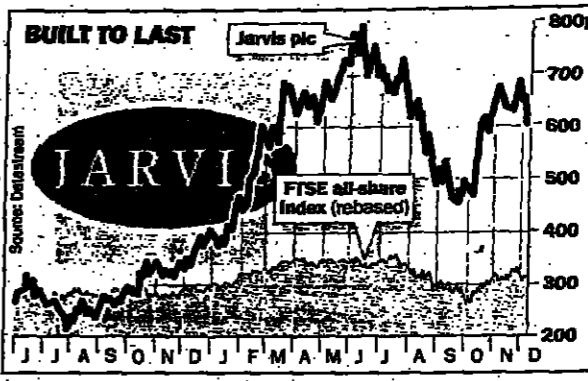
Table with market indices: New York (midday), Dow Jones, S&P Composite, Tokyo, Hang Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, FTSE 100, FTSE 250, FTSE 1000, FTSE All-Share, FTSE New Frontiers, FTSE Fixed Interest, FTSE Govt Sacs, FTSE Dividend, FTSE Net Assets, FTSE Property, FTSE Healthcare, FTSE Energy, FTSE Telecom, FTSE Chemicals, FTSE Consumer Goods, FTSE Financials, FTSE Industrials, FTSE Utilities, FTSE Pharmaceuticals, FTSE Media, FTSE Technology, FTSE Retail, FTSE Real Estate, FTSE Energy Services, FTSE Infrastructure, FTSE Environmental, FTSE Agriculture, FTSE Commodities.

Forging into the future

GKN is on a mission to persuade the car industry of the merits of metal powder as a raw material, which it says makes for cheaper car components than traditional forging. A typical 2,500lb car has about 30lb of components manufactured from powdered metal. GKN wants to raise this to 50lb by 2000-2001. The purchase of Interlake, the biggest US supplier of iron-based powder through its Hoeganaes arm, increases GKN's already significant bulk in this growing area. GKN must be sure that Interlake customers will not take their business elsewhere. They might, given that one of their component competitors is now in charge of Hoeganaes. But it will take time for customers to switch away and GKN should be able to prepare for that risk. Interlake's huge debt also raises fears that it has underinvested recently. Yet for a company with GKN's cashflow, this could be turned if necessary. Interlake's aerospace business fits neatly with GKN's existing aircraft arm. There is a question mark over Interlake's storage side, whose attractions are so obvious, and it is also a candidate for quick disposal, and if that happens the price achieved will give a good indication of whether GKN overpaid for the whole of Interlake. With businesses that perform well in tough times - the Westland helicopter for example - and now Interlake bolstering the long-term attractions GKN shares are at least a hold. Short-term share price performance, however, depends on demand for cars. There was reassuring news coming out of Italy yesterday, with better than expected sales, but the worldwide environment is far from rosy.

Jarvis

IF ASKED to name the largest quoted construction company, would you come up with Jarvis? Many outside the coterie of sector followers would not only be surprised that it is Jarvis, but also that this company is now worth £800 million. It has come a long way since new management headed by Paris Mosey, took control in 1994. In that time the stock has travelled from 5p to 75p although market-wide sobriety has settled on shares. Yesterday the shares were firm at 60p. The force behind Jarvis's meteoric rise is its approach to construction contracts and its move into facilities management. Like Morrison Construction, which reported last week, the focus has been on divorcing the company from the traditional tender process. The old way creates an adversarial climate where margins are shaved to, and often beyond, breakeven. The new partnership style adopted by Jarvis and Morrison brings far better margins, but ones which customers are happy to stand because they should get a better building. This, and more particularly the outsourcing of rail and road repair and maintenance needs, makes Jarvis look more like a support service company such as Rentokil Initial or WS Atkins. Compared with them the shares look good value at 19 times prospective earnings, even though Jarvis's rating is twice the construction sector average. Real quality is not cheap. Boy quality. Buy Jarvis.



Property

BRITISH LANDS' cheery seasonal message could not have differed more from the gloom view at MEPC. A week ago, the latter's chief executive was talking about occupier demand falling off. Yesterday, John Ribhat, British Land's chairman, was talking about a sensible balance between supply and demand. Are they both living on the same planet? A cynic might wonder whether the latter company's upbeat message is aimed at those brokers marking the stock down. Were the sell-off to continue, British Land might not remain for long a FTSE 100 share. That is one battle already lost at MEPC. Yet it is possible to reconcile the two outlooks. In fact it is akin to the proverbial glass, which for some is half empty and others half full. An equilibrium of supply and demand implies a flat market, one in which vacancy rates remain stable and one in which rents advance at the rate of general inflation. No catch-ups ahead, just a rather dull market. That is the rub. Property company shares must also fight investor indifference, an illiquid real estate market and a paucity of deals. The big property stocks are trading at discounts of 20 per cent or more to net assets, a bit higher than the long-term average but they will need more than half-glass optimism to narrow that gap.

Powderject

POWDERJECT Pharmaceuticals is an impressive company. With its eponymous person-specific drug delivery gun, it has a painless, easy-to-use and apparently cost-effective alternative to needle injections. It has a strong intellectual property position and a clear commercial strategy to build its brand. And in its \$300-million collaboration with Glaxo Wellcome on DNA vaccines, it seemingly has the biggest and best partnership deal in the UK biotechnology sector. The "seemingly" is important. The Glaxo deal in March lifted Powderject's shares above 500p, roughly doubling its value. The \$300 million is a good headline figure but to earn anything like this amount Powderject needs to clear numerous hurdles on 11 products in a new field of medicine. Glaxo already has good early results from using Powderject's device to administer its DNA vaccine for Hepatitis B, but this achievement triggers a payment of only \$1 million to Powderject. At 509p, the shares do not look cheap. But it is reassuring that Paul Drayson, the chairman, recognises that Powderject needs to "change an industry" to turn big opportunities into big profits. Worth backing. EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

Table with commodity prices: COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES.

Table with commodity prices: CRUDE OILS, ON LONDON GRAM FUTURES, IPE FUTURES, RUBBER, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE.

Table with commodity prices: PERMIT, Long GRM, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, Japanese Govt Bond, Three Mth Sterling, Three Mth Eurodollar, Three Mth Euroswap, Three Mth Euro, FTSE 100.

Table with commodity prices: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA.

Table with commodity prices: LIFE OPTIONS, various call and put options for different stocks.

Table with commodity prices: FIVE YEAR GILT, various financial instruments and their prices.

Table with commodity prices: Currency, Dollar, Deutsche, French Franc, Yen, Local Authority Debt, various government bonds.

Table with commodity prices: 3, 6, 9, 12 month interest rates, various bank and financial institution rates.

Blundersbank's last hurrah marked out by bad timing

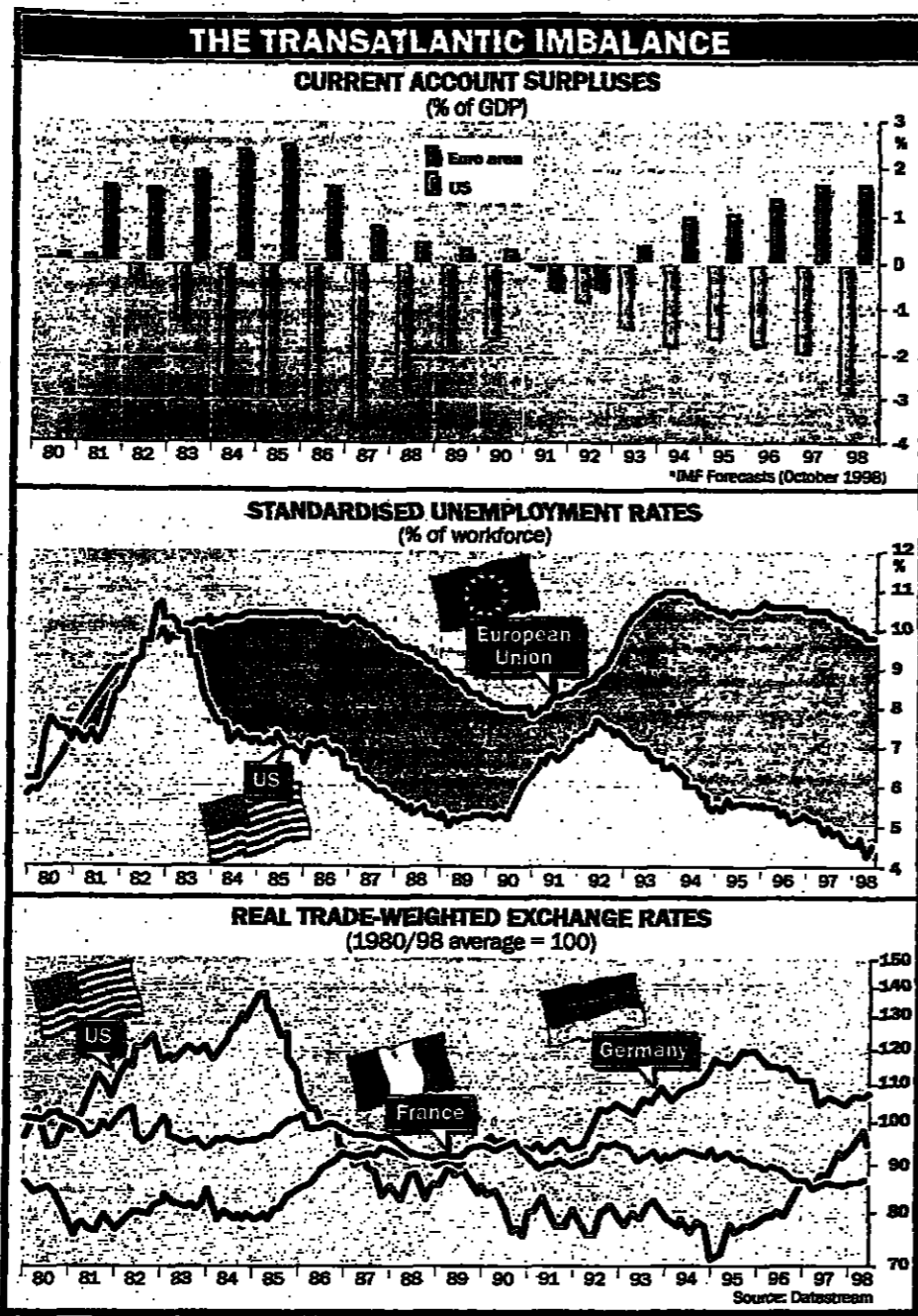
German-led rate cuts sent wrong message two weeks before handover to the ECB

To complain about last week's reduction in European interest rates, led for the last time in history by the German Bundesbank, may seem churlish, particularly after arguing in this column last week that the new European Central Bank must demonstrate its willingness to act aggressively to sustain European economic growth. Nevertheless, last Thursday's move may turn out to be the last serious blunder by an institution whose recent erratic judgment has amply earned it the nickname of the "Blundersbank".

My objection is not, of course, against the principle of a rate cut. It has long been clear that domestic demand in Europe, and especially in Germany, is unacceptably weak. It was even clearer that under a rational monetary policy the European single currency would begin its existence with interest rates rather lower than the 3.3 per cent prevailing in Germany until last Thursday and very much lower than the expectations built into the financial markets. Until very recently, a surprising number of political analysts in the City and on Wall Street were expecting the ECB to launch its campaign for political credibility in Germany and France by actually increasing rates!

The Bundesbank's potential blunder lay not in the decision to cut interest rates, but in its timing and the message that it seemed to convey about monetary policy in the crucial first few months of economic and monetary union. If the Bundesbank had begun to act a few months ago, at the same time as the US Federal Reserve Board and the Bank of England, a rate cut such as last Thursday's would have been an unalloyed blessing. The problem with last week's move was that it came too late to demonstrate the Bundesbank's commitment to a proactive policy against deflationary pressures, yet it came too early to suggest such an activist policy from the ECB.

By moving just two weeks before the formal handover of power to the ECB, the Bundesbank pre-empted a decision that would otherwise have been taken at the new institution's first policymaking meeting. As such it could have had far greater symbolic impact than last week's move, creating a presumption that the new central bank would act more aggressively than the Bundesbank to maintain demand. In the



event, the Bundesbank has sent exactly the opposite signal. By jumping the gun it has signalled that interest rates are now at the "right" level and that they will remain unchanged for the foreseeable future, as Wim Duisenberg, the ECB president, confirmed yesterday in an interview in the *Financial Times*. If European interest rates had to be cut again early in the new year — perhaps in response to another collapse in financial markets or a dangerous hardening of the euro — the ECB would effectively have to challenge the last will and testament of the Bundesbank.

Mr Duisenberg will also have to deal with an internal power struggle that could have been settled once and for all if the Bundesbank had left it to the ECB to cut rates later this month. As was apparent from Italy's refusal to participate fully in last week's rate cuts, Antonio Fazio, the Governor of the Bank of Italy, was opposed to an easing of monetary policy which he saw as unnecessary and symbolically dictated by the Germans and French. According to Richard Medley, the hedge fund consultant who was almost alone in predicting last week's move, one of the Bundesbank's main objectives in jumping the gun was its desire to avert a split vote over the ECB's first monetary policy decision. This is a possibility that Mr Duisenberg, whose leadership is already under pressure from France, apparently views with horror. This is one reason why he is so determined to ensure that the ECB council's minutes and voting records are never published or disclosed. But by allowing a confrontation with Signor Fazio to be avoided at the outset, the Bundesbank has merely ensured that Mr Duisenberg will again be intimidated by a lack of unanimity when pressures develop for the ECB to ease again.

Thus, instead of signalling a new period of monetary activism in Europe, last week's move by the Bundesbank may actually have ensured that monetary paralysis continues to prevail. If so, then trouble could lie ahead, not only for Europe but for the world economy as a whole. Europe will enter 1999 in a condition of profound economic imbalance. One way or another, there will have to be large reductions in its huge trade surplus, since this is a counterpart of the unsustainable trade deficit in the US (see charts). The trade surplus could, in principle, be adjusted in one of two ways. Either there will have to be much faster economic growth and lower unemployment in Europe. Or there will be a further hardening of the euro, which is already dangerously overvalued, and is turning Germany into the rustbelt of Europe. Which of these possibilities comes to pass will depend almost entirely on the willingness of the ECB to ease interest rates aggressively with the deliberate intention of maintaining strong economic growth and a competitive exchange rate.

Until last week it was possible for investors, businessmen and policymakers around the world to believe that Europe had recognised the need for a substantial easing of monetary policy, but had deferred implementing a cut in interest rates until the ECB took over responsibility for monetary policy. This allowed an opportunity for some of the peripheral countries, such as Italy and the Republic of Ireland, to bring their interest rates down to German levels. It now appears that European central bankers were not simply waiting for the

handover to the ECB, but had decided that 3 per cent was the "right" interest rate that should apply in Europe for "the foreseeable future". What made last week's events rather alarming was the implication that European central bankers were conducting such a debate at all. The fact is that there is no such thing as a "right" interest rate for Europe applicable for "the foreseeable future". Whether 3 per cent, 2 per cent or zero turns out to be right for Europe will depend entirely on events in the months ahead. And at a time as fraught with uncertainty as the present, complete flexibility is needed from the central banks. No one can say in advance what rate might be low enough to guarantee strong economic growth. I would emphasise the word "guarantee" because a guarantee of economic growth is exactly what central bankers outside Europe have been trying to offer their business communities and financial investors in order to offset the dangers of a global deflation.

Over the course of this year every leading central bank and finance ministry outside Europe has effectively committed itself to an active policy of managing demand to maintain economic growth. Alan Greenspan at the Fed, in particular, has made crystal clear that it would go on cutting interest rates as rapidly and as deeply as might be required to stabilise the US economy and financial markets. The Bank of England has sent the same message, now almost certain to be reinforced by another rate cut on Thursday, perhaps even of half a percentage point. The ECB, by contrast, still seems determined to remain the pre-Keynesian odd man out. Mr Duisenberg and other officials continue to repeat the Bundesbank mantra that a central bank must not be a "cyclical institution" and that monetary policy must be guided by a "steady hand". Above all, central banks must avoid "exaggerated activism" (a phrase coined specifically by the Bundesbank to express European disdain for the policies of the Bank of England and the Fed). Can economic growth and business confidence be maintained in Europe without the sort of monetary activism and guarantees of positive demand management provided by central banks in the rest of the world? Perhaps they can. But given the other uncertainties in the world economy today, investors, businessmen and even ordinary consumers in the US, Britain and Japan have come to rely on open-ended commitments to expansionary monetary policy from their central bankers as the only reliable assurances against recession — or, in Japan's case, complete economic collapse. It is hard to see why Europeans will be able to settle for anything less.

Far from a red letter day for the Trade Secretary

Christine Buckley says Government has failed to deliver in its new plans for the Post Office

he has set out. Mr Mandelson has opted for a messy middle ground. The Post Office faces regulation, an erosion of its monopoly and does not have the firepower of commercial freedom that a sale could have delivered. It will still be under the Government's control for making investments and for raising extra cash if its spending plans are ambitious.

The model which the Department of Trade and Industry set out yesterday is only a modest improvement for a Post Office that has been under the cloud of review for the past seven years. Yesterday's plans stop short of making the Post Office an independent publicly owned corporation — the model favoured by the CWU, and while the union will welcome the reprieve, it will need to steel itself for the next round in the long-running saga of it and when the organisation is sited up and sold. It remains to be seen how bold the Post Office is allowed to be under its new and yet to be clarified status. The White Paper will reveal more but it may well turn out to deliver the timid fudge that the Energy Review offered. Mr Mandelson may be adept at digging the Government out of immediate holes but has not yet demonstrated clear leadership in policy.

Why, therefore, shy away from the Post Office? By not selling a part of the Post Office and by giving it the diluted commercial freedom

son of the threat to wave at the unions at a later date, presumably after the next election. The climbdown is also glaringly out of kilter with other government action. The Government has made it clear it wants to sell half of the National Air Traffic Control System and is looking at prospects for the Royal Mint. It even wants to sell a big part of the London Underground. The benefits of all these pale into insignificance compared with the Post Office. London's Underground is in such a poor state that potential private partners will need huge incentives to be tempted to dip their toes in the water. The sale of half of the National Air Traffic Control Systems is similarly fraught with problems over difficulties at its planned flagship centre.

Why, therefore, shy away from the Post Office? By not selling a part of the Post Office and by giving it the diluted commercial freedom



Mail gets through but there's cold comfort for the Post Office

Family affair

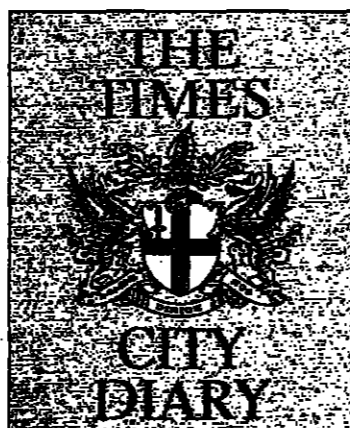
AN OLD friend re-emerges in Paris. Asher Edelman, for it is he, was last heard of on those shores when he attempted to take over Storehouse, and he also once had a pop at Lorrho. He is now trying the same trick at the Taittinger champagne family's hotels, perfume and crystal holding company La Société du Louvre.

Edelman, 58, American but still based in Geneva, has more than 11 per cent of the shares but just 3.9 per cent of the voters, this being France.

He has planned a two-pronged assault, complaining to the Paris Bourse regulator about the voting structure. Edelman yesterday went to a Paris commercial tribunal about how the firm is run, claiming there are too many people called Taittinger there, for example, and about their refusal to give him a seat on the board. Given that the family have control, Edelman would seem to be tilting at windmills. But his record elsewhere shows an ability to turn a profit out of the most unpromising situations.

DID Kim Howells, the Consumer Affairs Minister and MP for Pontypriid, go briefly off-message at yesterday's conference on house purchase? "If I was buying an expensive car I would want to know all the information about it," he said. "And for journalists who live in Islington, there are cars that are bought and sold which cost more than houses in my constituency." Sneers about affluent Islington dwellers? Surely not from new Labour.

Cooked books
SOME people are just not cut out for a career of dishonesty. Mark Carnelius Horgan has just been thrown out of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales. Horgan first tried to obtain credit from three banks, citing an accountant whose employment he had left six years previously. The banks checked. He used his former employer's name to try to find work elsewhere. The new employers checked. His final brilliant scheme was last year. He went to an industrial tribunal and claimed unfair dismissal and sex discrimination; again, Horgan said he had been employed by the same firm of accountants since 1990. The tribunal took a look at his documents. His P60 clearly dated from 1990 and had an out-of-date name for his alleged employer, the year 1996 had been "manually inserted". Horgan denied everything to the tribunal, again claiming to be employed. Oddly enough, given his record, once again they checked.



Snooping

JUST published is a 60-page Government report from the Intelligence and Security Committee. This is the parliamentary body charged with keeping track of the activities of all our would-be James Bonds and George Smiley's. There is plenty of text about our spooks. But there are also 15 pages of spreadsheets detailing the intelligence services' finances. Every single entry, every figure, however anodyne, has been replaced by a row of asterisks. Presumably somewhere in Whitehall there is a complete copy. And one day we may be trusted to know how much MI5 spends on office furniture.

TO LEEDS Crown Court, where another company controlled by Stephen Hinchliffe, the former *Facia* magazine now banned from being a director for seven years, has been put to sleep. *Feelgood Leisure* was only formed in January to buy the assets of a collapsed mail order company called *Freetime Sports*. I ask the administrators for a directors' state of affairs, which will show how much *Feelgood* owes. "Not until we have checked it," came the reply. How long will that take? "Anything up to two months." So it takes two months to unravel the finances of a company that has only been in existence for eleven? Stephen, you're a marvel.

Dressing down

THIS is Tim McKean of Fuji Bank in a stunt with a couple of underdressed young women during his lunch hour yesterday. Hi, Tim. The models were at the Broadgate ice rink, although I am told skating was not their métier. Was it entirely necessary, I ask Cavenagh, the Moorgate shirt retailer behind the whole thing? The poor girls could easily have caught their deaths. "It's a shirt company," Cavenagh's people tell me callously. "What else can you do?"



Tim McKean's shirt stunt caught companions out of their metier

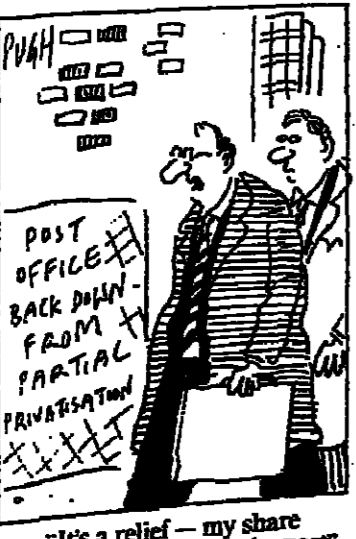
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"It's a relief — my share application got lost in the post"

the children's father, was too upset to talk after the hearing, and shook the bench as they tried to hammer a stake assailed by Mr Rush.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections for ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

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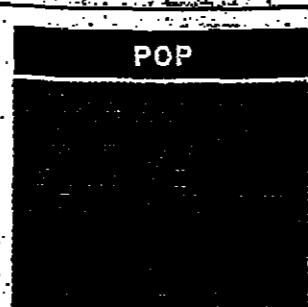
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THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC
Why Mark Elder relishes Rimsky
PAGE 37



VISUAL ART: Eggs in varied styles make up a large part of Rosemarie Trockel's work — but not all, says Richard Cork

Going to work on an oeuvre

In one of Rosemarie Trockel's shortest and most arresting videos a naked woman stands with her back to the camera. The top of her body is out of shot, and we soon discover why attention is focused below. For an egg suddenly drops from her parted legs and smashes on the floor. Liquid spills out, so dark that it looks like blood. But before we have a chance to find out, Trockel terminates the work in a vanishing circle of light.

Brief though it may be, *Out of the Kitchen into the Fire* encapsulates some of Trockel's concerns. Ever since the German established herself as a provocative young artist in the early 1980s, she has returned time and again to the themes of frailty, fecundity and femininity. The fascination takes many forms: like many women artists of her generation, Trockel has never limited herself to a particular medium or way of working. Nor does she imprison herself within a particular mood. Whether cool or high-spirited, investigative or irreverent, she can be relied on only to be unpredictable.

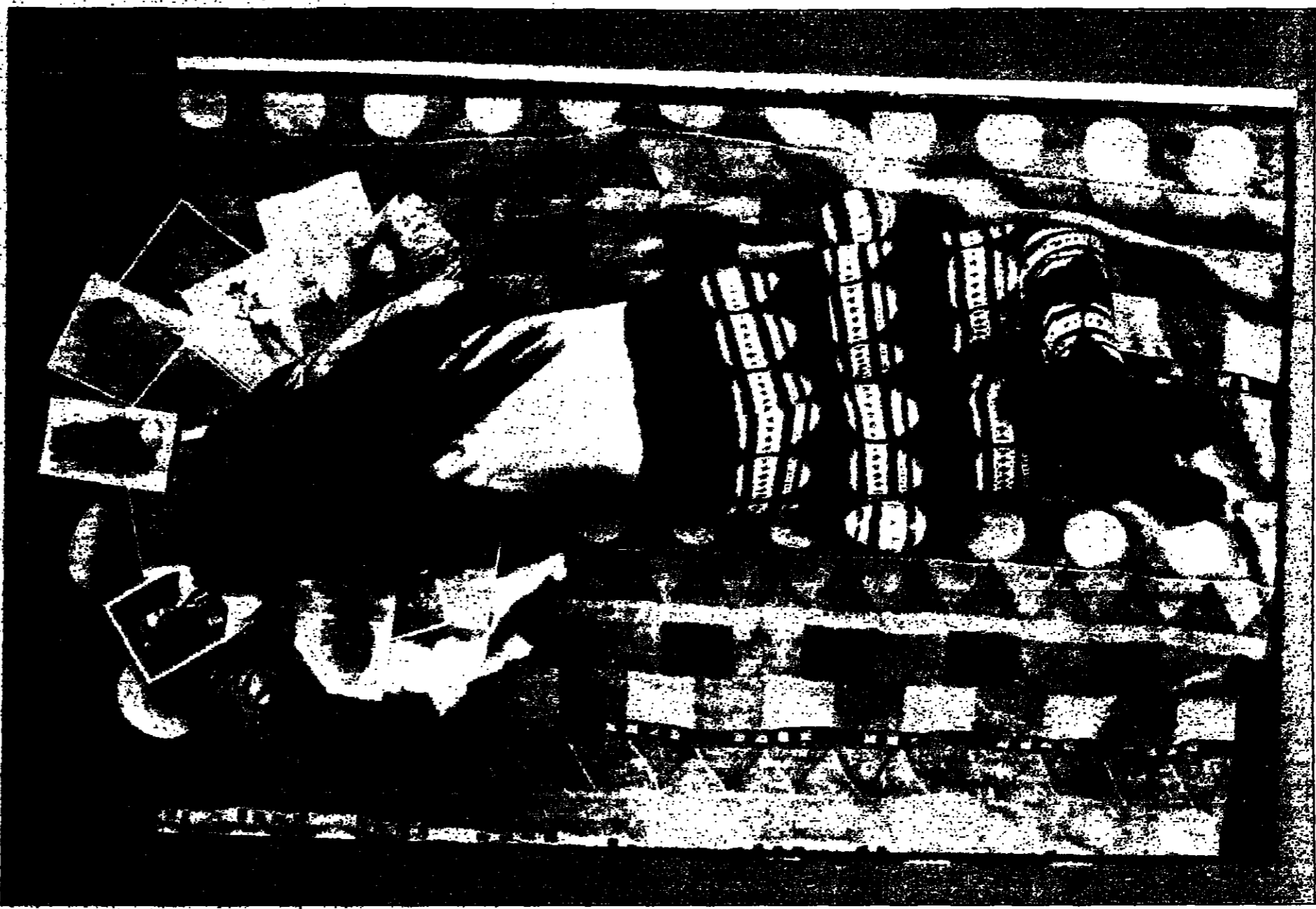
Eggs, nevertheless, provide a way in. They reappear so often in the early stages of her Whitechapel exhibition that I found myself moving gingerly, fearing a breakage. In their most monumental form, they fill an expanse of wallpaper stretching across a wide wall. Photographed there in severely regimented rows, like the most austere of Minimalist reliefs, they are almost robbed of reality. In the centre, though, purged abstraction gives way to a quite different order of feeling. Like a white beaded curtain, hundreds of real blown eggs dangle in front of the wallpaper. They are the quintessence of vulnerability, and

their emptiness has a pathos of its own.

Trockel does not associate eggs solely with humans. A homely wooden structure near by, called *Chicken Coop*, opens into the kind of cosy, reassuring interior where eggs used to be hatched before battery farming turned the whole activity into such an arid, mechanical exercise. But women are not forgotten, even here. On the open door of *Chicken Coop* hangs a black dress festooned with egg beads and, to mark the breasts, two isolated eggs — one whole, one smashed. Trockel always seems to oscillate between these two extremes.

No slight distinction separates fowl from humans in Trockel's fertile imagination. In *Living Means Knitting Tights* eggs are stung like grenades beside the thighs of a young woman who stares, with a secret intensity, at photographs of eggs from a whole array of species. She could personify the artist herself, for Trockel appraises the world with an anthropologist's gaze.

There is nothing drily academic about her stance, though. The clinical style she seems to adopt in her images of *Couples* at the start of the show should not be confused with coldness. At first, the serene, black-and-white prints of naked men and women may appear akin to those found in sex manuals. But these bodies offer no how-to information about positions in love-making. Many of them sit or lie next to each other, and one couple do not even touch. Instead, these lovers are savouring one another's company. They hold hands, nuzzle affectionately and let their legs overlap. Trockel makes us con-



The young woman who appears in *Living Means Knitting Tights* could personify the artist herself, for Rosemarie Trockel appraises the world with an anthropologist's gaze

scious of their sculptural form by using computer technology to extract them from their surroundings, placing them on pristine, bleached ground. Isolating and exposing the couples in emptiness does not impair their intimacy, however. The accent is on personal encounters between healthy people whose pleasure is never presented in a titillating way.

The broken-egg side of her imagination does not remain dormant for long, however. Upstairs, a bleaker vision asserts itself in a new work, *Sea-world*. The title suggests a

bland, tourist-themed experience, manipulated to ensure that only the most palatable aspects of marine life are presented. But Trockel scotches any such reassurance from the outset. A small sailing boat almost blocks our path, its emptiness accentuated by the clothes, gym shoes and other signs of recent occupancy strewn across the vessel. It looks forlorn, and the images beamed on to the creased sail by an automatic slide projector only increase the disquiet. Based on Hamburg, they flick restlessly from four views of the indus-

trialised docks to the water and back again.

The polluted murkiness of the sea shots subverts any sentimental notions about a marine paradise. As for the nocturnal images, where the water is almost engulfed in blackness, they recall the dying moments of Tacita Dean's film inspired by Donald Crowhurst's disappearance. But Trockel is here more allied than the romantic Dean to a documentary tradition. She photographs the sailors who work for low wages on the ships in Hamburg harbour. They frown at

her camera, as if wondering why the lens has been trained on them. The jaunty local broadcasters, whose chatter and music can be heard on a radio beneath the projector, cannot disguise the cheerlessness of a world summed up by the unwelcoming, banal bulk of the International Seamen's Club building.

No consolation can be found in the family portraits near the end of the show. *Mother* is reduced to a grim, wizened mask in alabaster plaster, surrounded on the same wall by charcoal drawings where her

face sprouts grotesque protruberances. *Father* is still more unnerving, his features literally defaced to the point of outright obliteration. We are close, here, to the emotional territory explored between the wars by Kathe Kollwitz, whose drawing of a stunned, elderly figure has been photocopied and then given new meaning in Trockel's revision. A vein of gruesome, fairytale humour erupts in some of these portraits, particularly when blindfolded men sprout phallic noses and a woman is compared with a primped-up

poodle. On the whole, though, Trockel reveals herself here as a surgical observer of humanity. There is an earnest lodged at the centre of her art, and no amount of loving bodily contact can thaw it.

© Rosemarie Trockel at Whitechapel Art Gallery, London E1 (0171-522 7888) until Feb 7

The Times Artangel Open: Friday Dec 18 is the deadline for entries. Call 0171-490 0226 for more information

Loner hangs his heart on his wonder walls

Rachel Campbell-Johnston admires the deceptive simplicity in the paintings of Craigie Aitchison

If you can't see the point of Craigie Aitchison's paintings at first glance (and a reproduction doesn't count, then you never will. There is an innocence and spontaneity to his work, a sense of wonder. You either get it or you don't. But those who do will find it easy to understand why, over a 40-year career, Aitchison has earned such esteem as an artistic loner.

His current show — split between two West End galleries — clearly illustrates his idiosyncrasies. Look at a recent piece such as *Calvary*. It is childlike in its clarity. The three crosses stand stark against a midnight sky, pallid bodies draped like wet sheets on a windless day. A grey dog gazes up into Christ's quiet face. A crescent moon cuts a

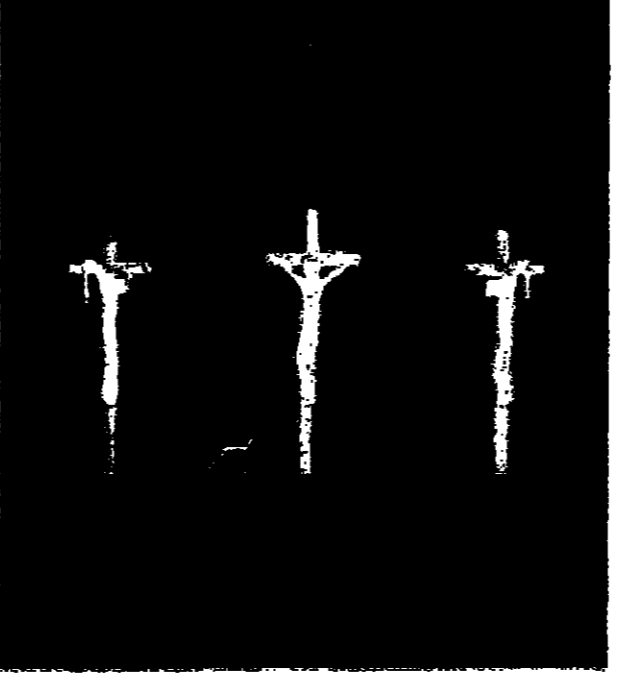
silver out of the dark, articulating the emptiness. The whole scene is infused with an aching sense of loneliness.

This painting, like all his work, is exquisitely simple. Much more has been left out than has been put in. The spick figures are dwarfed by sweeping fields of colour. Features are absent or rendered in scratchy lines. But the simplicity is deceptive. Aitchison's work is the result of studious reduction. "I spend the whole time altering things," he says, "tinting the paint in and then rubbing it away, moving it around until it works. I just feel when it's right."

Feeling is what infuses all Aitchison's work. His subjects are familiar things: his beloved Bedlington terriers, Holy Island, his scene from his Arran

holiday home, the cypress he once planted in an Italian garden or the frostbitten songbird which, one winter's morning, he found dead on his windowsill and has preserved in a tiny coffin ever since. "I've looked after him for 35 years," Aitchison says. His choice may be idiosyncratic but it is always heartfelt.

Perhaps this is because instinct informs his vision. His portraits, for example, are all of black people "because black people are stunning in the way that colour vibrates against their skin". He sets the soft tumblers of a dreadlocked rasta against a field of sour pink. "You can only get brightness if you have darkness," Aitchison says. A superb colourist, he applies this principle to all his works: to a burn-



Aching loneliness: *Calvary* (1997-98) by Craigie Aitchison

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

Pauline Boty (1938-1966) flickers in the memory of maybe a dozen television dramas and a walk-on in *Alfie* as the quintessential blonde dolly-girl. But in 1993 her art attracted attention in the Barbican's big Sixties Art Scene show, and in a one-person tribute at the Mayor and Gallery. Now she is on show again at the Mayor, and at Whitford Fine Art; there is also a book. The interesting thing about her work is that it is at once typical Pop Art, and not quite like anyone else.

Sometimes it is vividly coloured, in hindsight Monty Pythonesque abstraction; sometimes it uses the publicity images of contemporary male and female glamour, sometimes it resolves itself into Surrealist collage. It can be seen as at once reveling in and subverting the popular culture of the Sixties. It is all confident and controlled, with a sure sense of artistic purpose. What might she have done if she had not died of cancer at 28? *Whitford Fine Art, 6 Duke Street, SW1 (0171-930 9332). Mayor Gallery, 22a Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 3558), until Dec 18*

■ OVER nearly half a century Margaret Neve has been refining her own personal vision of the here and the hereafter. Her mystical landscapes are evidently inspired by the Welsh hills among which she lives, but more immediately they inscribe themselves in the pantheistic British tradition of following the visionary gleam wherever it may lead. Neve's technique is extraordinary, painting in oils with the finest of watercolour brushes to build up the surface of her wooden panels in a myriad tiny dots. But it is a great tribute to her that the technique immediately vanishes from the viewer's consciousness, so directly does soul speak to soul. *Montpelier Sandeaset, SW7 (0171-584 0687), until Dec 19*

■ Jila Peacock is another merchant of dreams. In her case the *Silent Opera* of her new show is inspired partly by Matisse, but even more by a magical, mythical Middle East: probably something to do with her being born in Tehran, and also with her having left when barely ten. Peacock worked as a doctor before her

art took over, and the imagery of her father's medical books may also have gone somehow into the mix. The result is completely personal: these strange, mysterious canvases glow with jewel-like colour, and cheerfully raise questions without apparently thinking that solutions should be part of the artist's stock-in-trade. *Piano Mobile, 129 Portland Road, W11 (0171-229 1099) until Dec 19*

■ Kitty North probably thinks of herself as a landscape painter, recording faithfully the rugged surroundings of her home in North Yorkshire. But the solitude of the fells can have strange effects, and more often than not the bare facts of topography become buried in flurries and eddies and incrustations of paint, until, but for the evidence of a sun (or moon?) in the upper half of the picture, one might take it for a complete abstraction. *Swan Mead Gallery, 1-4 Swan Mead, London SE1 (0171-394 0733), until Dec 21*

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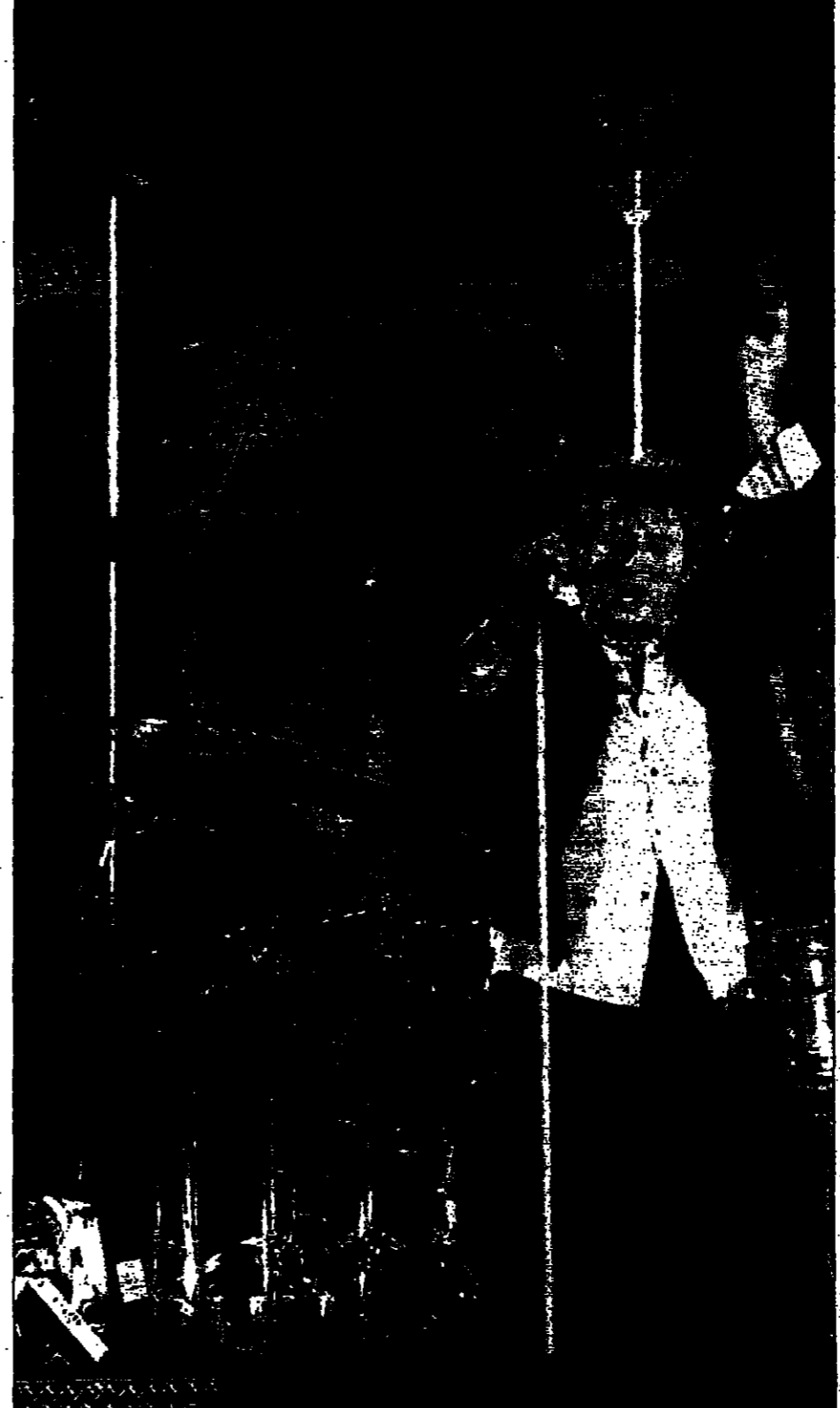
RECOMMENDED TODAY Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by James Christopher

NEW WEST END SHOWS Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

Scotland still thinks he's sexy

Rod Stewart must have known he was in for an easy ride before he so much as stepped on stage in Glasgow on Sunday evening.



An old trouper won't ever let you down: Rod Stewart wows the faithful in Glasgow

Man of many parts

Challenged to write a saxophone quartet, a composer must choose an unusual timbre of the saxophone or producing part-writing so strong that it would work just as effectively with other voices.

JAZZ

produced pieces for the Apollo, but in doing so, many lose their intrinsically jazzy qualities.

Masterminds missing in action

That Massive Attack are now more famous for being rude to the Duchess of York than for their extraordinarily chilled music is a live act.

Their hired guns opened with a barrage of noise, and with their lightshow and guitar-ist Angelo Bruschini's ringing prog-rock guitar, it all sounded rather like Dark Side of the Moon for the 1990s.

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CONCERTS

Rimsky finds a champion

ARTS

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Best of Haydn's 'Military'

MUSIC: Mark Elder's long-held passion for Rimsky-Korsakov bears fruit in London this week. John Allison met him

English maestro but Russian soul

Even for a conductor who takes all his concerts seriously, one single programme can have a lot of significance.

with things Russian. I'd been interested in Czech opera at university, but this love of Russian opera developed unexpectedly.

This is the programme that, textbook-like, puts Rimsky in context as the central figure of Russian musical history. It stretches from Glinka's Kamarginskaya, described by Tchaikovsky as the acorn from which the oak-tree of Russian music grew.

'There's a deep side to Rimsky that is sometimes neglected'

not until now tackled May Night. We are doing the overture plus most of Act I, omitting a couple of scenes with the Charcoal Burner. This work is a masterpiece: magical, humorous, with characters that seem so real.

Rimsky has a significant place in Elder's musical pantheon. 'There's a deep side to him, an understanding of the theatre, and an ability to create powerful orchestral magic.



Conductor Mark Elder in his studio: it was while he was helping to launch the Sydney Opera House, as Edward Downes's assistant, that he developed a love of all things Russian

Pioneer, survivor, and much more

It is already 30 years since John Eliot Gardiner made his momentous Proms appearance conducting the Monteverdi Vespers.

they breathed vibrant life into an old warhorse without resorting to gimmicks. Where some less experienced rivals would attempt to generate vitality with implausibly fast speeds, Gardiner unerringly seizes on the harmonic and rhythmic characteristics of each movement to shape a satisfying account of the whole.

That is not meant as a criticism: one could not fail to be impressed by the alertness of the musicians as Gardiner came on to launch the invigorating opening of Vivaldi's Gloria. Executing that chorus, and the whole work, with knife-edge precision, he and

CONCERTS Monteverdi Choir/Gardiner Barbican

there was room for illuminating and contrasting detail, such as the dancing rhythms closing the first stanza, the exquisitely phrased 'Halleluja' of the second (described as 'in-

some fine singing from several individuals, notably the bass Julian Clarkson. Just as Handel flexes his compositional muscles in this work from his early Italian years, so Gardiner's forces revelled in their collective virtuosity, responding to expressive detail with remarkable control of tension and release.

IN THE last four ENO performances of the run of Boris Godunov at the Coliseum the title role is being taken by Gidon Saks; this and other cast changes confirm the basic strength of Francesca Zambello's production despite one or two puzzlements.

A Boris fit to be feared

OPERA

power to his persona, but at first sight this Boris is already a deeply troubled human being - and from then on it's downhill all the way.

almost, as the performance progressed added greatly to the terror of his interpretation. His polished-granite bass-belted tone is ideal for the role, and he drew some long, expressive legato lines in among the historians. Strong stuff.

Noel Davies has taken over in the pit, last Friday's performance was not always precisely together, but had strong operatic profile.

Banging on about not much

To see such a good audience for a concert on the current Contemporary Music Network tour was encouraging, and it was reassuring to hear it so well performed.

them to better effect and more rewardingly for all concerned in scores with more interesting musical content.

CONCERTS London Sinfonietta Oxford

That leaves Yvar Mikhashoff's enterprising arrangement of Conlon Nancarrow's player-piano Study No 7, which sounds engagingly different from its metrical and textural complexities exposed by a large chamber ensemble, and David Sawer's Tirois.

Now there is a work worthy of the expert attentions of Masson and the Sinfonietta. It gives the impression of a score which might once have been dense in texture and thoroughly suffused by dance rhythms but which has now had much of its fabric cut away.

BUILDING A LIBRARY A guide to the best available classical CD recordings, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

HAYDN'S SYMPHONY NO 100, THE 'MILITARY' reviewed by William Mitchell

In his Military Symphony Haydn dressed himself in the 18th-century equivalent of a flak-jacket. By 1794, when the symphony had its first performance, almost the whole of Europe was at war with France.

ence won over by his individual blend of intriguing effect and easy melody. The 'military' content of the symphony only really becomes clear in the second movement, when a simple theme is invaded by a battery of percussion. It is a striking idea and could only have strengthened Haydn's reputation for springing all kinds of exotic musical surprises.

gebouw Orchestra are slower and Davis shapes each musical phrase with much more individual attention. Haydn ended his symphony with a kind of death-or-glory dash to the barbed wire of the enemy trenches. So the choice has to be the kind of conductor who would fight on with an empty revolver while all his troops lay around him.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SC0681, Forbes, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

My choice then is Antal Dorati in his 1974 recording with the Philharmonia Hungarica (Decca 452 256-2, 2-CDs, with Symphonies 93, 94, 97, 103 and 104, £14.99).

It might be enough that the Oxford audience were quite happy just to watch Glennie labouring her percussion instruments as soloist in these last two pieces. She would, however, have belaboured

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British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing
G S A Arnold

Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers
R J Abbot, D A Beesley, A R Bennett, D M Breen, N M L Chan, V Chang, A W Clewley, M K Clow, F Dax, P J Dean, P J Dodd, D I Dunsford, M E Dunne, R F Gatstas, J A Gilmore, S Gregory, J D Haigh, Y L J Hon, M W Howard, D J Kostera, N P Lord, S J Lowndes, S McDonald, A O'Brien, A D Foverell, A M Protopoulos, C J Roberts, M S Robinson, B Rutherford, J T Saanen, N Sullivan, P D Taylor, G J Teutner, R Tesser, A Wadward, N J Williams, C Wiper, B A Wood, J R Wood, P Woodford, J P Wizen

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LAW

Mad or bad — the dilemma of insanity

How can courts deal with the mentally ill?
Gary Slapper reports

Care in the community has failed, and this week the Government is unveiling plans to help the mentally ill who are insufficiently protected from themselves and from others.

Only last month the stabbing of a social worker at a South London hostel for psychiatric patients raised the issue of how the law should deal with people who commit crimes while suffering from clinical mental conditions. Jenny Morrison was stabbed eight times and a former patient at a psychiatric hospital, has been charged with her murder.

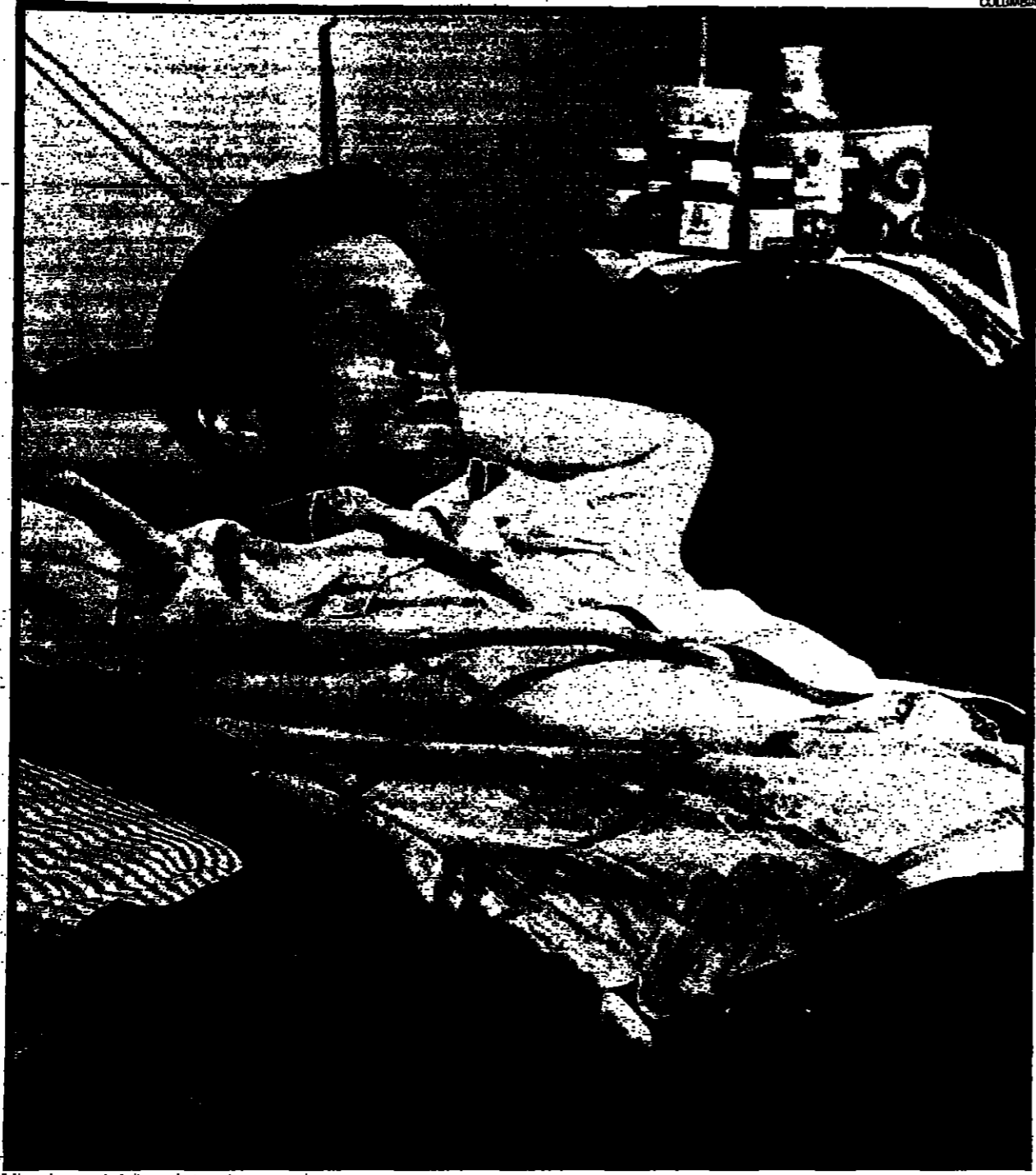
Nowhere is the "mad or bad" dichotomy reflected in a more confused way than in the criminal law's approach to insanity. For some people, it is curious that the perpetrators of terrible crimes can be seen as anything other than psychopathic and in need of treatment. In what circumstances can a deranged and savage person be judged as "normal" then simply thrown in front of a judge and jury in an ordinary criminal trial, and convicted and punished?

Mental illness is a huge social problem. Two million children in the UK suffer from mental ill-health, of whom 250,000 have severe problems. One in ten of us will at some time suffer a mental disorder. More than 50 people in Britain have been murdered by the mentally ill since 1993.

Kenneth McCaskill thought he "was the Devil" when he killed his father with a 12in kitchen knife, and then stabbed his mother. Yet in Edinburgh, last month, McCaskill, 27, whose condition was diagnosed as schizophrenia, was acquitted by a jury on the basis that he was "not guilty by reason of insanity". He will thus be sent to a secure mental institution.

By contrast, Michael Stone was last month jailed for the murders of Lin and Megan Russell. Stone has a history of mental illness, and before the killings had requested hospital treatment (which had been denied). Yet after the case Ruth Carnall, West Kent Health Authority's chief executive, said: "I think we can say with some certainty that Michael Stone was not mad."

Criminal law on insanity is based on 19th-century legal and medical assumptions. There have been calls for radical changes of the rules, including the 1975 report of the Butler Committee on Mentally Abnormal Offenders, but the law is still in a mould of outdated thinking. At the core of the problems are the different criteria of madness preferred in law and psychiatry.



Robert De Niro as a paranoid killer in *Taxi Driver*. Mental illness has become a huge social problem

In a House of Lords case concerning the circumstances in which a psychopathic offender can be released into the community, Lord Lloyd of Berwick recently highlighted the awkward relationship between the law and psychiatry. Some times, Parliament can legislate "without envisaging that an existing psychiatric disorder might be regarded as treatable today and untreatable tomorrow owing to a change in psychiatric thinking."

The basis of the law on insanity, which permits the insane to be found not guilty of any crime, because of their condition, is that such people are not responsible for their actions. If a toddler pushes a brick out of a window and it kills someone, we do not prosecute the child because it is not responsible for its actions, or their consequences. The same reasoning applies to acquit the insane. The judgment of a case in 1800 notes that: "It is the Reason of Man that makes him accountable for his actions... and the deprivation of reason acquits him of crime."

The guiding principles of insanity in law are found in the M'Naghten Rules, which arose from a case in 1843. M'Naghten had shot and killed a man whom he believed was Sir Robert Peel, the Home Secretary. He had acted under a "morbid delusion" that he was being persecuted by the police at the Government's behest.

There was political disquiet at his acquittal. The judges formulated a new set of rules, starting with the proposition that every man is presumed to be sane and responsible for his crimes. The defence of insanity would be open only to someone who, at the time of a crime, was "labouring under such a defect of reason, from disease of the mind, as not to know the nature and quality of the act he was doing; or, if he did know it, that he did not know what he was doing was wrong". In cases in 1984 and 1989,

the definition of insanity was held to cover epilepsy and a certain sort of diabetic problem. Where the sufferer has a build-up of blood sugar through failure to take insulin, the problem can then be seen as an internal organic one within the definition of insanity. But if a diabetic suffers from a dip in blood sugar, through an overdose of insulin, the cause of any loss of rationality is legally seen as external rather than insanity.

It is remarkable that, at a time when so many patients are receiving "care in the community", insanity (the only appropriate defence they can use if accused of a crime), is successfully used by defendants fewer than 20 times a year. A royal commission on capital punishment in 1953 deemed the M'Naghten Rules "obsolete and misleading". Unfortunately, nothing fundamental in the insanity laws has changed since.

Dr Slapper is director of the Law Programme at the Open University.

Fraudbusters get set for Euro action

Reforms will stop criminals abusing different state laws to evade justice, says John Spencer

A row broke out last week when a national newspaper warned its readers against something called Corpus Juris, which it presented as a Brussels plot to replace the criminal procedure of England and Wales and its ancient rights of habeas corpus and trial by jury with something called "the Napoleonic system".

This is not correct. What lies behind the project is the problem of budgetary fraud. The European Union budget loses out when fraudsters evade the various taxes and duties that provide its income, or when they claim grants and subsidies to which they are not entitled. These frauds net enormous sums of money for clever international criminals.

Such frauds are difficult to prosecute, because despite the virtual abolition of EU frontiers for trade and travel, the criminal justice system of every member state is still a "legal island". Each has its own criminal offences, most of which apply only to acts within its territory. So different parts of the same fraud must be prosecuted in different countries under different rules.

First, each separate national prosecution needs evidence from abroad. English search warrants are not valid in Paris or in Athens, and vice versa; nor do our (or their) courts have any power to compel the attendance of witnesses who are abroad. Overseas evidence must be sought by a slow process similar to extradition — which must be used to secure the arrest of the defendant if he or she is abroad. Each country has its own system of police, fraud investigators and public prosecutors. Hence well-organised transnational conspiracies are often fought by ill-organised coalitions. Despite small-scale reforms, this problem has so far generated more talk than action. In 1993, the UK passed a law extending the territorial jurisdiction of our courts over a range of fraud offences; but it remains a dead letter because a succession of Home Secretaries have failed to bring it into force.

In 1995, the European Commission invited a group of experts to consider the problem and the Corpus Juris project is the fruit of its discussions. The group's first proposal is a single set of criminal offences of defrauding the EU budget, to apply throughout all member states. These would enable the criminal courts of any member state to try offenders,

no matter where in the EU the fraudulent acts had taken place. The second proposal is a common set of rules of procedure and evidence. These include standard rules about what evidence is admissible. For example, oral evidence would be admissible by live video link. There would be a common set of powers for evidence-gathering. There would also be a "European arrest warrant", valid throughout the EU.

The third proposal is a European prosecution service to investigate and prosecute the new offences. This would consist, in each state, of a public prosecutor seconded for a fixed period from his national prosecuting service, to work on Euro-fraud cases under a chief in Brussels. At the request of the European Parliament, the Corpus experts are now preparing a "feasibility study" and the Lords Select Committee on European Affairs is about to study the proposal.

The Corpus Juris project is clearly no proposal to replace British criminal justice with the judicial equivalent of the euro. Nor is it a secret plot — since it appeared in April 1997, strenuous efforts have been made to bring the Corpus to public attention. Nor, even within its limited compass, would it impose a "Napoleonic" system in conflict with Anglo-Saxon traditions. The authors of the Corpus tried to produce a synthesis of the best features of the rules of criminal procedure and evidence on both sides of the Channel. Among the many ideas borrowed from the common law tradition are the right of silence, the presumption of innocence and the rule that coercive measures for gathering evidence require the prior consent of a judge.

It is true that the Corpus recommends that the new offences of budgetary fraud should be tried by professional judges sitting without jury. But even this proposal originates on this side of the Channel, in the Roskill report on fraud trials in 1986.

Crime that crosses borders can only be fought effectively by agencies with powers to do the same. And this is true, whether the borders are English counties or police force areas, or those of a highly integrated Europe.

The author is a professor at Cambridge and a member of the team that drafted the Corpus Juris project.

There would be an arrest warrant valid in the EU

LORDS DIARY

LORD ACKNER, the retired law lord, is leading the onslaught on plans to remove the power of the judges over rights of audience in the legal profession. The Lord Chancellor's proposals are "unconventional" and "a breach of the separation of powers", thunders Lord Ackner. One of the Government's most ferocious critics in the House of Lords, he is revealing a new skill — master of the understatement. "Very occasionally," he told the Lords' debate on the Queen's Speech, "I have made mild, respectful and somewhat hesitant criticisms of the noble and learned Lord the Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary."

MARGARET McCABE, pioneer of equal opportunities at the Bar and founder of the Woman Lawyer Conference, has moved chambers to 1 Pump Court. The chambers were winners of the *Last Times* Woman Lawyer awards for their equal opportunities policies. McCabe, whose practice covers employment, family and commercial law, also advises Baroness Jay of Paddington's women's unit. She is delighted with her move. "They are totally modern in approach. And there is no discrimination whatever."

PETER CARTER-RUCK and Partners has become the first law firm to offer "no win, no fee" work for defamation cases. Legal aid is not available for libel so the scheme should help people to seek redress who were previously denied it.

THE Crown Prosecution Service is enjoying a honeymoon period following the appointment of David Calvert-Smith, QC, as Director of Public Prosecutions. But

stormclouds are gathering in the form of a turf war between the CPS and the police over one of the recommendations of Sir Iain Glidewell's report on the CPS. Sir Iain recommended the setting up of criminal justice units at police stations staffed by a mix of police and CPS personnel. Their job would be to prepare cases before suspects are charged. This role is in the hands of the police and, according to one CPS source, senior police officers have indicated that they want to keep it that way.

THE Lord Chancellor's charm offensive knows no bounds: he gave not one but two interviews last week. Nor is any subject off-limits, it seems: his guilt over the break-up of his first marriage for *The Sun*, the Woolf reforms for the FT.

WOMEN Against Rape is meeting in the House of Commons, Room 12, tonight to discuss Jack Straw's reforms. Details: 0171-482 2496.

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Directed from top left: Alan Birmingham-Parker, Ben Robins-Eggleston, Beverly Lang-Parker, Quinn Durkin-Parker, Michael Pallas-Eggleston, Max Scott-Parker, Edward Devereaux-Parker, Deborah Jones-Coxworth, Frances Lacey, John Chapman-Jones, Robert & Associates

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If you are seeking to work as an individual within a team, this exciting opportunity may be for you. This truly innovative City firm, wants media lawyers with 0 to 5 years' ppe to join their market leading commercial media group. You should have a strong reputation drive and ambition to achieve this goal. (Ref: 17824)

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION TO £40,000

The highly regarded litigation department of this distinguished West End firm is now seeking a junior assistant, with 0-2 years' ppe. The combination of a local based commercial caseload and the firm's stated commitment to continuing professional and personal development, make this position a very attractive proposition for an able assistant wishing to fast track their career. (Ref: 25200)

BANKING

As part of the ongoing growth strategy, the thriving banking group of this dynamic City firm is currently seeking ambitious, commercially aware assistants at all levels. If you are seeking high quality work in a supportive team environment where your experience, no matter what your level of experience, this may be the position you have been waiting for. Excellent career prospects. (Ref: 22797)

CONSTRUCTION MIX TO £65,000

This premier magic circle firm is currently seeking to recruit construction lawyers with 1-5 years' ppe, and sufficient ambition to make an immediate impact. Handling a dynamic caseload comprising of contentious and non-contentious matters, successful candidates will share the firm's desire to be a market leader in this area and possess the requisite drive and determination to achieve this goal. (Ref: 25012)

EMPLOYMENT TO £60,000

A superb opportunity for an employment lawyer with 2-5 years' ppe, to join this highly successful UK practice which continues to move from strength to strength. This position promises an interesting and diverse caseload, drawn from an enviable client portfolio in addition to your skills as a lawyer, you will need the knowledge, confidence and flair to market, write and speak on the full range of employment issues. (Ref: 24045)

SLEEPING TO £42,000

This highly regarded niche practice firm seeks to recruit an ambitious assistant, with 1-5 years' ppe, to complement its successful shipping and insurance department. With excellent experience of all aspects of dry work, you can expect a position which boasts excellent career prospects and a superb salary and benefits package. (Ref: 25129)

PROPERTY TO £41,000

Due to increasing work levels, this focused dynamic City firm is looking for two property assistants, one with 2 years' ppe and one at NQ level. The successful candidates will join a thriving department, where their values will be heard and their input valued. To top it all you will handle a broad range of genuinely first rate work. (Ref: 21595)

For further information on private practice vacancies please contact Yvonne Smith at ZMB or Debbie Cookson on 0171 323 3038 (01925 469564 evenings/weekends). Fax: 0171 323 3039. E-mail: yvonne.smith@zmbgroup.com Alternatively please write to ZMB Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 1JL.



London Manchester Sydney Toronto Vancouver Calgary

london/international appointments

london & brussels to £70,000

Top 10 City firm is interested in hearing from talented lawyers in this field who have between 3-6 years' experience. The London office has 5 partners and the highly rated Brussels office has 3 partners. The department offers advice on success and regulatory work in addition, telecoms and media sectors. The firm also has strong links with a German cooperation firm. Contact Bhavisha Jalappa.

city to £48,000

Fresh opportunity for someone admitted to around three years' with good academic and sound relevant experience. Respected, progressive medium sized City firm has a need for an additional fee earner for this specialist group. A lively, friendly team with a broad range of international and UK residential and insurance dispute resolution, arbitration and litigation. Contact Stephen Watkins.

city to £50,000

The national/international practice has an opening for a keen 0-2 years post-graduate lawyer to join its legal office. You will have specific aviation expertise and have a good academic track record. In return you will gain excellent regulatory/finance experience in a state of the art environment. Contact Tania Neeson.

city to £90,000

Leading national firm has two positions for lawyers to undertake project work, energy and aviation. Approximately 70% of the work is offshore. You will have corporate and/or banking experience together with cross border experience. In return, you will gain good quality work, plenty of responsibility and a high level of exposure to international clients. Contact Bhavisha Jalappa.

to partnership

Stack in a top job with two prospects of partnership? Respected by the stratagem culture of your current firm? Why not break free? First rate cost, niche expertise at highly respected medium sized firm in central London. Personal opportunity to carve out your own name and build a team for personal and financial independence. Contact Tania Neeson.

city to £75,000

Continued expansion of this very successful PPI group in a City firm with a leading reputation for project and property finance requires a further senior assistant. Ideally 4-5 years qualified and with experience of project finance. High level of responsibility helping build the business of this dedicated team of 7 headed by 4 partners, doing the full range of PPI work. Commonwealth candidates welcome. Contact Andrew Howe Browne.

city Excellent to £70,000

US firm with a strong global presence has an opportunity for an English qualified intellectual property partner for both local and international and non-contentious IP. You will currently be working for a City firm which has a strong reputation in the field. The London office is staffed by nine partners and approximately fifty lawyers and is committed to building further. Contact Bhavisha Jalappa.

us firm to £70,000

New position with established City office of worldwide US firm. A senior practitioner of proven ability is needed to spearhead the provision of employment law services. Non-contentious work includes lecturing to clients and consideration/improvement of in-house manuals. Candidates will involve defending both contractual and IT claims. Excellent prospects. Contact Stephen Watkins.

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Exciting futures beckon for young, enthusiastic and ambitious lawyers with 0-2 years' ppe in any area of financial, capital markets or project finance at the London office of this major US firm, whose rapid growth and top salaries accurately reflect the practice's impressive success and demand. Ref T23616

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This top 10 firm's Paris office is looking for a solicitor with 2-4 years' ppe to work on transactional matters. Relevant experience must include drafting loan and security documentation in any one or more of the following areas: syndicated loans, corporate (acquisition) finance, asset finance (lease and lease/finance), and project finance. A good standard of spoken French is also required. Ref T34134

INSOLVENCY To £130,000

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Meeting children halfway

Contact centres help families and save money, says Grania Langdon-Down

Amid being given a chance to know his father. His bitterly divided preys had been referred to the Coram Meeting Place in Brompton, London, one of the few contact centres where independent social workers supervise visits.

Over seven months, Amid went five times, curious but ambivalent about his father. But the last visit, observed by a court welfare officer, father and son seemed relaxed as they played a board game.

After 100 hours' work with the sole family by the centre, it is still too early to say how their relationship will develop — but both parents now accept that contact should continue.

Aid's family is just one of more than 80 helped in the past year by the Meeting Place which comes under the aegis of the Thomas Coram Foundation, a children's charity. About half involve couples whose relationships broken down irretrievably, often amid accusations of abuse, and access is possible only under a supervised contact order. The other half are families whose children have been taken into care.

The project manager, Margaret Briant, two full-time project workers, sessional workers and volunteers supervise more than 600 visits a year at the Meeting Place — self-contained flat made as snugly as possible with a garden, covered play area, anisiting room full of toys and games. Locked doors separate it from the rest of the building, which provides a full family room for supervised contact visits. There are 250 centres registered with the National Association of Child Contact Centres which last week held a



Margaret Briant at the Coram Meeting Place in London: "What started as a trickle of cases became a flood — about half involve private law work"

conference on bridging family break-up.

Staff help more than 70 children a month. Their days are varied — they might assess a new family or counsel a parent after a difficult visit with a child. A mother whose baby has been taken into care at birth might come four times a week to be supervised with her child if the local authority hopes to keep them together. In private law cases, children come for two hours a fortnight over six months to see if their relationship with the absent parent can move to more informal arrangements.

"What you see is children in pain. Only being able to see your child under supervision must be everybody's nightmare, so it is very rewarding when we see relationships improving and the children's misery easing," Ms Briant says.

Mr Justice Cazalet, who sits in the High Court Family Division, praises the project as a "flagship". "If it didn't survive," he says, "it would be a loss to the whole system of family mediation. It provides a bridge between warring parents and their children and stops the children becoming emotional

football by helping families to establish more stable and tolerant relationships. The law alone can be too blunt an instrument to resolve such problems."

The future of the Meeting Place is uncertain because there is no permanent funding. Funding problems go back to the centre's inauguration ten years ago. It began as a neutral venue with a caretaker handling books, where social workers could supervise meetings. But in less than a year, a qualified social worker was appointed as project leader with a team of volunteers to supervise

meetings. The centre's reputation grew. Before long, a High Court judge rang to say he had a case where the children's parents could not resolve the issue of access. Could the centre take on supervised contact?

Ms Briant says: "What started as a trickle of cases became a flood. About half our cases now involve private law work, but we have no funding for it."

Preparations for a contact visit are intricate. The resident parent and child wait in

one building, while the absent parent goes straight to the centre. After the meeting, that parent must wait 20 minutes after the child has gone. Dr Brynna Kroll, a lecturer in applied social studies at Brunel University, who acts as project consultant and is developing a training programme for centre workers, says: "Family breakdowns cost millions. The Meeting Place is a unique resource."

Coram Meeting Place, Gregory House, 43 Mecklenburgh Square, London WC1N 2NU. It can take referrals only from local authority social workers and court welfare officers.

Human rights have a long way to grow

As a revolutionary document turns 50, Ralph Wilde calls for an overhaul

Human rights are very much the language of our times — from the prosecution of General Pinochet to the Government's attempt at a human rights-based foreign policy. Thursday marks the 50th anniversary of the document which founded the modern human rights movement, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Declaration came out of revulsion for the atrocities of the Second World War. It was revolutionary, taking the notion of rights from the national constitutions of the West and articulating it on the international level, as applicable to all. Through force of personality, Eleanor Roosevelt pushed it through the United Nations despite Cold War tensions.

Its 30 articles set out simply what were considered to be the most fundamental needs that all people share. They cover civil and political rights, like freedom of expression, and economic, social and cultural rights. Like the right to education. In articulating the diversity of rights as interdependent, it tried to cover all the needs that are emphasised differently throughout the world and prevail regardless of changes in circumstances. This vital starting point then required fleshing out in subsequent treaties.

Unfortunately, during the Cold War, human rights were appropriated as a tool of East-West confrontation. The Soviet Union insisted on the primacy of economic, social and cultural rights. The West considered civil and political rights to be more important, creating the European Convention on Human

Rights as a beacon of "democratic values" against communism. In the words of Lord Lester of Herne Hill, civil and political rights are now developed through a "transnational public law process" — national, regional and international institutions developing a common, cross-fertilised rights jurisprudence.

However, as the human rights agenda expands in scope, its inadequacies become more pronounced. Refugee law — set up to help individuals persecuted in Europe — struggles with refugee movements on a global scale caused by mass violations of rights. Most refugees flee to developing countries, which lack the means to help them. Western states no longer have a strong cultural commitment to assist refugees.

The Pinochet decision opens up the possibility for more individual criminal trials despite inaction by states where violations take place, but this will occur in a piecemeal fashion, and in countries unconnected to the violations. It remains to be seen if the International Criminal Court will create a more appropriate forum to perform this role.

The anniversary is a salutary reminder that, despite the Holocaust, it took 50 years for the Declaration to begin to realise its potential. The challenge for the next half-century is to enhance the relevance and legitimacy of human rights as a means of articulating individuals' needs, through the constant revision of law and its implementation.

The author is a barrister engaged in international law research.

Pinochet decision may lead to more criminal trials

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SKIING

Britain's skiers take sharp turn for better

By JOHN HOPKINS

FROM the White House came some good news. Not the White House in Washington DC, but the White House, Wimbledon, SW19, the headquarters of the Ski Club of Great Britain. It was there, within a fortnight of the famous tennis courts, that the annual meeting of the British Ski and Snowboard Federation (BSF) took place yesterday and approved changes that should have far-reaching effects on British skiing and snowboarding.

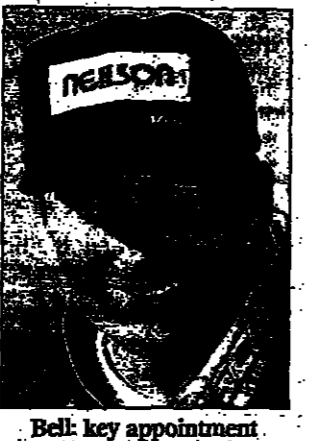
British skiing, ha-ha-ha. With apologies to Roddy Doyle, perhaps, like some cynics, we should mock the efforts of Great Britain's skiers and snowboarders, where a British success is finding a skier good enough to enter a World Cup event, a triumph if that same skier finishes among the top 50. Such cynicism, though not always wide of the mark, is as inelegant as a poor turn. British skiing is rather like a picnic, a lowland nation attempting to compete with nations for whom skiing enjoys a much higher profile.

The changes that were agreed at Wimbledon are aimed at improving the performances of British skiers, increasing the numbers of the best, giving a better return for potential sponsors and attempting to make Britain a far greater force in skiing. "These were some of the biggest changes there have been in British skiing in modern times," Mike Jardine, the chief executive of the BSF, said.

The annual meeting approved the election of a seven-man board of directors, who were voted in by a newly-created electoral college, who were, in broad terms, the old guard of skiing. The BSF board now comprises a chairman

and his deputy, as well as commercial, finance, events and disciplines directors. The men who fill these positions are businessmen with expertise in their areas, exceptionally so in the case of Andrew Steel, the deputy chairman, who is a former Anglo-Scottish champion and outstanding student skier. Steel has an MBA from Harvard.

One name, above all others, will sound familiar. It is that of Graham Bell, the former Brit-



Bell: key appointment

ain skier, whose appointment was formally made at the start of this month and whose job will be to look after the performances of British skiers. "Graham knows what it's like, what people want and need and how to achieve it," Tim Alcock, the new chairman, said. "We are very pleased to get him." "Ski racing is an exciting and dynamic spectator sport," Jardine said. "We have athletes who are very close to the top and we hope to be in a position to give them support, to push them up."

As an example of an outstanding athlete, Jardine cited Emma Carrick-Anderson,

who finished fourteenth after the first run of the opening World Cup Slalom in Park City, Utah, last month, ahead of Anita Wachter, of Austria, the Olympic champion, and Ylva Nowen, of Sweden, who is the World Cup overall slalom champion. Alain Baxter, a specialist in slalom and giant slalom, who is ranked No 87 in the world, is the first British skier to be ranked in the top 100 at a technical event.

"There are seven in the senior team and six in the junior team. We want to put more funds into the people we think will go somewhere," Jardine said. "We do not have an assistant coach or a physiotherapist. The last time there was a physio with the British team was at the world championships in 1991. This is bare minimum stuff. We can do better."

It had not been a foregone conclusion that such drastic changes would be ratified. They were dreamed up two months ago and had to be unofficially approved by the members and then put to the annual meeting.

"Mike [Jardine] has worked with a small and elite team that has as much time on snow as anyone," Alcock said. "What we need to produce is more peer pressure. We have outstanding athletes, we need to produce more of them to put pressure on one another and drive each other on."

Alcock has already warned his fellow directors of the way in which times have changed. "We have to formulate business plans to support Mike's performance plans," Alcock said. "I have told them: 'You will do this or be criticised. You will be made aware of the fact that you are not here because you represent someone else, but because of your expertise in a certain area.'"



Neil Smith, the Denver defensive end, makes his point after sacking Rich Gannon, the Kansas City quarterback

Vintage Elway saves the day

By OLIVER HOLT

THE veteran quarterbacks of the National Football League (NFL), who have submerged the sport in an ocean of sentimentality and reminiscence with their ageless skills this season, excelled themselves again at the weekend, keeping their respective teams to the fore as the regular season stampedes towards its climax.

At the head of the pack was John Elway, who seems to chalk up a new record every week. He chose last Sunday in the Mile High Stadium to throw for 400 yards-worth of passes for the first time in 13 years as the Denver Broncos edged past the Kansas City Chiefs with a stirring fourth-quarter comeback.

The Chiefs had raced into an early 14-0 lead and it seemed that Denver's dreams of winning their 16 regular-season games were about to die. They trailed 31-21 midway through the final quarter, but Elway is known for his orchestration of late, late comebacks. It was his throw that set up the play with which Terrell Davis, the Broncos' running back, re-

duced the deficit to three points. Then, with just over three minutes of the game remaining, Elway completed a 24-yard touchdown pass to Shannon Sharpe to put Denver into the lead. The victory means they have won all 13 of their games this season.

"That was one of those great football games," Mike

Shanahan, the Broncos' coach, said. "It was one of those games you enjoy coaching. It showed me the character of our team, the way they hung in there for 60 minutes. They found a way to win."

If Elway grabbed most of the headlines, the best individual performance of the day belonged to Vinny Testaverde, the quarterback of the New York Jets. Testaverde, formerly of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, not only threw for 418 yards but also scored the con-

troversial late touchdown that brought the Jets their 32-31 victory over the Seattle Seahawks.

The victory kept the Jets level with the Miami Dolphins at the head of the hard-fought American Football Conference East division, but television replays seemed to suggest that Testaverde's "quarterback sneak" 20sec from the end of the fourth quarter had failed to take him into the end zone. With the Jets on their fourth down five yards out and needing a touchdown to win, Testaverde called the sneak — a move where the quarterback charges straight ahead of him as soon as he gets the ball from the snap — and ploughed in to a mass of Seahawks defencemen. The officials ruled that he had made it, but the cameras showed his knee had hit the floor one yard out.

"I felt like there was a gap between the guards to run the sneak," Testaverde said. "I took a chance, we got lucky and I was able to get the ball in the end zone. I kind of bobbled it as I was running through their defensive line and I wasn't able to reach the ball out, but the ref called it good."

ATHLETICS

Hemery presses for drugs test move

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of leading European nations have agreed that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) should be urged to ban countries that do not conduct adequate programmes of out-of-competition drug testing.

"Only those countries which agree to out-of-competition testing should compete at the Olympics," David Hemery, the president of UK Athletics, said after attending a meeting in Frankfurt that had been set up as a so-called "brainstorming" session by the European Athletic Association.

Hemery singled out China as a country at which the measure was aimed. Though Chinese athletes have not been exposed in the way that its swimmers were at the world championships in Perth this year, when vials of banned human growth hormone were found in a competitor's luggage and four swimmers tested positive for taking a banned diuretic, the athletics world record lists remain tainted by suspicion.

The world records set by Chinese women in four middle and long-distance running events between 1993 and 1997 have remained way out of reach to the rest of the world. Hemery gave Great Britain's backing to a letter sent to the IOC by Professor Helmut Digel, the German federation president, seeking sanctions against non-comforming countries.

"We should hit them where it hurts the most," Hemery added. "Television and other IOC revenues should be given only to countries that support out-of-competition testing."

Hemery said that Professor Digel did not expect to succeed with his controversial proposal, which is to be laid before the International Amateur Athletic Federation congress next August, calling for a clean slate on world records from January 2000.

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David Hands believes Dark Blues will light up Twickenham today

Cambridge diet of success faces severe test

THREE days after the tumult and the triumph of England's win over South Africa, Twickenham will resound again this afternoon in celebration of what many perceive to be an anachronism. Yet the 117th university match between Oxford and Cambridge must have some quality in order to draw more than 60,000 spectators...

Bowling Bowl acknowledge the privilege, but they are also carrying the flame for those who have gone before. In the days when it was the two universities who were the professionals — in attitude and preparation, rather than payment — and who contributed so much to the game, not only in Great Britain, but overseas as well.

Like it or not — and many do not — the university match is woven into the fabric of the English sporting year. While Oxford and Cambridge continue to turn out individuals of quality in so many disciplines, there seems to be no good reason for that situation to change; other universities do precisely the same and many will be represented at Twickenham, in the form of the post-graduates who now make up the majority of the two sides.

All the portents suggest that this should be Oxford's year, after four successive Light Blue triumphs. Their form during the second half of term has been consistent, whereas Cambridge have struggled, both for results and to determine their most effective XV. The meeting last week of the respective second XVs may have provided a pointer, Oxford Greyhounds beating the LX Club.

Yet, as so many old Blues know to their cost, it is form on the day that counts and it is an indication of the sustained value of this fixture that so many different generations contribute: this term, the Cambridge backs have been organised by Steve Cottrell, the 1995 centre, Simon Holmes (1989 to 90) and Adrian Davies (1988 to 91), internationalists both, worked with the squad over the weekend and Phil Keith-Roach (1969 to 71) has tightened the nuts and bolts of the scrummaging. Indeed, it is not so long ago that, in terms of numbers, the Davies brothers outscored the Innes brothers, Angus and Hamish, both products of that famous Brisbane rugby nursery, St Joseph's, who win their Blues together today. Adrian played by half to Lloyd Davies at centre in 1991 and alongside



Brothers in arms: Angus, below, and Hamish Innes line up at lock forward for Cambridge

Graham, the wing, as a centre in 1988 and at fly half in 1989. It will be the first time, though, that brothers have filled both lock positions, with Angus, the older by 14 months, doubtless claiming precedence. If Cambridge, whose highlights have included a win over a Richmond XV that contained three internationals, do succeed, they will join their predecessors of 1972 to 76 and 1980 to 84 in recording five consecutive victories. That Richmond game created grave concerns at Grange Road because of injuries to Robin Morrow and Mark Robinson, but the Irish full back and the New Zealand centre emerged from facial and ankle damage respectively to claim their places.

Robinson and Mark Denney, his co-centre, represent a potent threat to Oxford; both have considerable experience, one with Taranaki, the other with Bristol and Wasps, but they will need a decent service from Paul Moran and Greg Pascoe, their New Zealand half backs. That is where Oxford hope to close the game down, by dominating possession and by hounding the Cambridge halves. They bring to the fray the unusual sight, albeit concealed beneath a scrum cap, of Adam Russell, the pony-tailed American lock, whose rugby career at Oxford has been hindered by injury. The United States also provides the only senior international in Kurt Shuman,

the centre capped ten times by his country. Since their pre-season tour to South Africa (where their only defeat was against the University of Cape Town), Oxford have built an effective pack around Bode O'Connor, the rumbustious Australian hooker, and Andy Roberts, the lanky undergraduate lock. Competition is the back row has been intense, not least because David Kelaheer, the captain, was able to press for his place only in mid-November after recovering from keyhole surgery to a knee. He joins Mark Challenger, a fellow Australian, and Norman Celliers, a Stellenbosch product, in a trio whose experience, at this level, could prove to be decisive.

Hart points to pressure on South Africa

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE will be renewed interest in the Five Nations Championship next February, not only from those at home whose jaded palates have been whetted by England's stirring victory over South Africa on Saturday, but from the southern hemisphere.

Down Under, they have been inclined to dismiss the five nations' recent years. The home unions did not help themselves by touring last summer with such weakened teams, but there is renewed respect, notably for the achievements of England and Wales against the Springboks, which was reflected by the reaction of John Hart yesterday.

It is Hart, the New Zealand coach, and his All Blacks whom Nick Mallett, the South Africa coach, perceives as the greatest threat when South Africa defend the World Cup next October, but Hart said that the southern hemisphere would disregard the north at their peril. This will probably be the hardest World Cup to win, he said. "I think there are at least five teams that can win."

Hart suggested that Mallett had underestimated the demands the next year will bring, both in the playing schedule and the effect that favouritism may have on his players. "I've got huge respect for the growth and resurgence in the northern hemisphere," Hart said. "Australia and South Africa will improve, but they're the ones under pressure now."

England knows that they are far from the finished product. They have a pack that can compete with the best, but a back division that still lacks coherence. It is hardly surprising, given injuries to key individuals such as Will Greenwood, Paul Grayson and Matt Perry; but the emergence of Dan Luger has bolstered the wing department, while Matt Dawson at scrum half knows that Kyran Bracken must now take the position from him, rather than vice versa.

Table listing rugby players and their clubs, including Woodhouse King Edward VII, Lytham and St Edmund Hall, N Booth* Lytham St Annes HS and Worcester, etc.

Bedford strife claims Cooke

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE house that Frank Warren's money has built at Bedford over the past two years suffered another blow to its foundations yesterday when Geoff Cooke resigned as chief executive. Cooke, the former England and British Isles manager, made his decision with immediate effect after six months of financial struggle.

There has been little but crisis management at Goldington Road this season after the euphoria that accompanied promotion to the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. With Warren's money tied up in his legal battles with Don King, another boxing promoter, there was uncertainty among the playing squad as early as August over their continued employment, while, a month later, Paul Turner, the coach, resigned. Cooke, who began at the club as a part-time consultant in 1996 and joined on a full-time basis 17 months ago, remained, however, his reputation acting as a solid base in a rapidly-changing world. That he should choose to leave now will be a blow to Warren's aspirations for the club, coming on top of his frustration that there has not been greater support from the Bedford public.

"I am bitterly disappointed at the circumstances that have produced this outcome," Cooke, 57, said. "The players and other staff have worked very hard over the past two years to help Bedford to rise from the depths of the second division to achieve Premiership status and I am very sad that my association with the club should end in this way."

"I have spent most of my working life helping other people to achieve success, but I now have to give priority to my future and that of my family. I hope the club can surmount its difficulties and remain in the top flight of English rugby." Cooke resumed coaching when Turner, who subsequently joined Saracens as their backs coach, left and it is likely that Rudolf Straußel, the South African back-row forward who recently finished playing, will be asked to try to keep the club on an even keel. Warren, expressing disappointment at Cooke's decision and wishing him well for the future, said an announcement over a success would be made before the match on Saturday against West Hartlepool, the only club between Bedford and the bottom of the first division.

The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) had to issue an urgent correction after dispatching their leading clubs criteria for the projected "super-chub" format that it wishes to introduce. The criteria included the requirement to sign the contentious ten-year loyalty agreement — one of the main reasons for Cardiff and Swansea withdrawing from the Welsh League — but Dennis Gethin, the WRU chief executive, made clear that a "first draft" had been sent out in error.

Worcester, whose second-division game with Bristol at Sixways on Sunday is sold out, have signed two forwards from Orrell, Paul Manley, the flanker, and Stuart Turner, the prop, have moved from the Lancashire club, who last week sought administrative orders to deal with mounting debts.



Cooke: crisis management

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Do you see any difficulty in taking all of dummy's diamond tricks in a no-trump contract on the hand below?

Bridge hand diagram showing Dealer South, East-West game, and Teams. Cards are listed for both hands.

North's Three Spades showed opening values, a good diamond fit and at most a singleton spade — a "splitter" bid. The Three No-Trump bid by South was automatic, and North had no reason to overrule his partner. There seem to be nine tricks on top in Three No-Trumps, but the diamond pips in declarer's hand potentially block the run of the suit. I hope you noticed that. This becomes a problem when West makes his natural lead of a club, attacking dummy's entry.

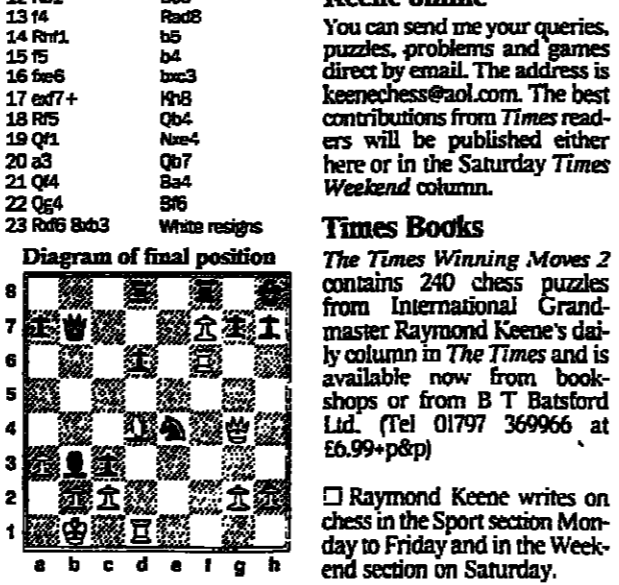
The correct technique is to win the third round of clubs and cash the ace and king of diamonds; if the suit is 2-2 South takes a third round in hand and crosses to dummy on the fourth round. When the first two rounds show the diamonds split 3-1 declarer switches to clubs, throwing away the blocking diamond card from his hand. South has to lose four club tricks, since West can cash out his suit, but he has nine top tricks from the other suits without needing to take the spade finesse.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

White: Bobby Fischer Black: Efim Geller Monte Carlo 1967 Sicilian defence

Chess move list for the Sicilian defence, listing moves for White and Black from 1.e4 to 23.Rd6 Bxb3.



White to play. This position is from the game Nimzowitsch — Marshall, New York, 1927. White has a fierce double pin against the black knight on f6. What is the most efficient way to exploit this?

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ CYCLING: Richard Virenque, while still maintaining that he did not take banned drugs, said yesterday that he had decided to retire from the sport, because the doping scandals overshadowing it were preventing him from finding a new team. Virenque has been unable to find a team since Festina decided to part company with the Frenchman last month. A statement issued on behalf of Virenque, 29, said: "He [Virenque] has the impression that he is leaving a job unfinished and he wants to apologise to his supporters. He would like to keep making them dream, but it is not possible."

■ GOLF: Volvo is to continue its sponsorship of European golf through to the end of the 2002 season. The three-year extension of a partnership that began in 1988 secures the company's backing of the PGA Championship at Wentworth, the Scandinavian Masters and the Volvo Masters. The three tournaments were worth a combined £3 million this year, plus £700,000 for a bonus pool to the leading 15 players on the final Order of Merit. That pool is being dropped; but instead there will be rewards for those who do best in the three Volvo-sponsored events.

BOWLS

England fitness is called into doubt

By DAVID REYS JONES

THE England team that failed to win any medals at the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia earlier this year was insufficiently prepared for the heat and humidity, according to Norman Sarsfield, the chairman of the Commonwealth Games Council for England. He made the charge at the annual dinner of the English Bowling Association in London, adding that, compared with competitors from other countries, England players were also physically unfit. Unlike previous guest speakers, content to enjoy a free meal before entering the usual platitudes — great game, commendable spirit, impeccable sportsmanship, wonderful officials, etc. — Sarsfield had clearly done his homework and was bold enough to criticise his hosts. "Other countries prepared much better than we did," he said. "They were ready for the heat and humidity." Apart from the marathon runners, the bowlers were subjected to the most gruelling conditions, because they were out on the green for up to eight hours a day.

Pointing out that the England women had collected two bronze medals, he said: "The performance of the men was frankly disappointing." Mal Hughes, the England team manager, said: "It's true that some bowlers are unfit and overweight, but all seven of our lads trained hard before they left for Malaysia and I don't think it was their level of fitness that let them down." "What they weren't prepared for was the state of the final green, which was incredibly heavy and, like most countries, they struggled."

WORD-WATCHING section by Philip Howard with a list of words and their definitions, including INANGA, MAHORKA, MUCKA-MUCKA, and HOLLARD.

WINNING MOVE section by Raymond Keene with a chessboard diagram and a puzzle description.

Liverpool may be tempted by West

By Russell Kempson and Richard Hobson

LIVERPOOL and Newcastle United have been alerted to the availability of Taribo West, the Nigeria and Internazionale central defender.

West, 24, who played for Nigeria in the World Cup finals, threw his shirt in the direction of Luccese as he left the pitch, a gesture that led Italian observers to predict that he had played his last match for the club.

West's future in Italy has been the subject of speculation since Luigi Simone was dismissed as the Inter coach a fortnight ago.

Zagreb warn Celtic over Viduka

FOOTBALL: 'DEPRESSED' STRIKER'S FORMER CLUB THREATEN TO GO TO UEFA OVER TRANSFER FEE

By Our Sports Staff

CROATIA Zagreb have threatened to report Celtic to Uefa, the governing body of European football, if the Scottish champions carry out their threat to withhold part of the transfer fee for Marko Viduka.

Fergus McCann, the Celtic managing director, is taking legal advice about whether his club is obliged to pay the full £3 million for the Australia striker, who walked out on the club at the weekend just a few days after completing his move to Celtic Park.

They are also contemplating suing the player after he rejected Celtic's offers to stay in Glasgow and returned to Zagreb on Sunday night, complaining of depression and a need to rest from football.

Croat nationality, is suffering from emotional burn-out and struggled to cope with training on his first full day at Celtic on Thursday.

He also suggested that Viduka's return to Celtic could depend greatly on how sympathetic the club is to his plight. "At this point, he has no desire to play on," Mandic said.

"It also depends on Celtic now — they have the final say. It depends on how understanding they are.

Sheffield United, of the Nationwide League first division, have agreed to sell Dean Saunders, their Wales striker, to Benfica for £500,000.

per cent of all future transfer fees involving the player. Jozef Venglos, the Celtic manager, said: "It is a sad situation. He told me about the past and said he felt depressed and that he doesn't want to play football — but he said only good things about the club."

Viduka arrived in Zagreb on Sunday night with his girlfriend, Ivana. He is said to have met Goran Juric, his former Croatia Zagreb teammate, and expressed a desire to go back to Australia soon to visit his family.

Ireland are to play Northern Ireland next year, with the proceeds going to the victims of the Omagh bombing in August. It is hoped that the game, at Lansdowne Road on May 29, will attract a capacity crowd of 50,000.



Viduka and his girlfriend, Ivana, returned to Zagreb after he walked out on Celtic

Arsenal call on their last reserves

By Matt Dickinson

THE game means nothing, but that will not stop Arsène Wenger flying out to Greece an anxious man this morning.

As if Arsenal did not have enough domestic problems at the moment with their lack of goals, a mugging in Athens is an alarmingly realistic proposition as they prepare to face Panathinaikos with a maximum of three first-team regulars.

There will be so many spotty, blazered teenagers at Luton airport this morning that it will look more like a school outing than the English champions on tour and Wenger, headmaster as ever, is concerned that it may be a humbling experience for some of his young charges in the European Cup 'Champions' League.

It is doubtful whether Tom Black, 19, Greg Lincoln, 18, and Paulo Vercasa, 19, have travelled much beyond Islington, never mind around the world, but the trio are guaranteed at least a place on the bench tomorrow night, as are Michael Black, 22, and Omer Riza, 19.

When Marc Overmars pulled out with a groin injury yesterday, he joined Adams, Vieira, Petit, Bergkamp, Winterburn and Hughes (all injured), Parlour and Dixon (suspended), Ljungberg and Caballero (ineligible) and Jason Crowe, the England Under-20 player, who is on loan to Crystal Palace.

Wenger admitted yesterday that he was somewhat tempted to give David Seaman a rest, but fears that it would be unfair to put Alex Munnings behind a defence that will be so exposed.

When Rangers signed from Fiorentina for £4 million in 1997, "Maybe the two clubs have talked, but I don't know," he said. "If Juventus really want someone, they will just go and get him."

Given his patchy contributions to the Ibrox side, a transfer to Juventus sounds unlikely, but it is one of the side-effects of Rangers' advance in the Uefa Cup that they are the subject of a better class of gossip.

PARMA (probable 2-4-2) G Buffon, L Thuram, R Serraro, F Caracciolo, D Fucini, A Rocchi, D Reggi, A Benelli, J Veroni, E Chiesa, M Crespo. BANGOR (probable 4-4-2) A Mannion, R Lavery, D O'Connell, A Murray, A Kanchelski, B Ferguson, I Ferguson, G van Bronckhorst, H Wallace, G Dale. Referee: J. Hogg (Newport).

TELEVISION: BBC2 from 12.00pm.

Rangers vulnerable to Parma's sharpness

SO SWEEPING is Parma's vision that Rangers must hope that they are the detail that is overlooked. After drawing 1-1 at Ibrox, the teams meet again this afternoon in the return leg of their Uefa Cup third-round tie.

Parma are favourites to win the tournament and, more important in their own eyes, have also begun to set out their claim to the Serie A title.

On Saturday, Alberto Malesani's team enjoyed a 2-0 victory away to Sampdoria. The previous weekend, AC Milan were vanquished 4-0. In consequence, Parma are joint-second in the Italian league and Fiorentina, a step ahead of them, will feel that the knife could be plunged between their shoulder blades at any moment.

sire is now the Italian championship. Triumph would cap the transformation brought about by Parmalat, the dairy company that owns and nurtures the club.

Given the weight of the ambitions, it would be pleasing to suppose that Rangers, mistakenly, will be taken lightly. Their advance in the Uefa Cup, one suspects, has come as a delightful surprise even to Advocaat himself.

Whom Rangers signed from Fiorentina for £4 million in 1997, "Maybe the two clubs have talked, but I don't know," he said. "If Juventus really want someone, they will just go and get him."

Positive outlook from Ferguson

By Our Sports Staff

ALEX FERGUSON will not entertain the prospect of being eliminated from the European Cup when Manchester United take the field in their final Champions' League fixture at Old Trafford tomorrow night.

United will be playing Bayern Munich knowing that, with Galatasaray playing away to Athletic Bilbao and Juventus facing Rosenborg at home, one of European football's great clubs will be following Barcelona out of the competition this week.

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American Football results table showing scores for various games between teams like Atlanta, Carolina, and Dallas.

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HOCKEY table listing various hockey fixtures and results.

TODAY'S LIVE U.E.F.A. CUP ACTION table listing live football matches and their current scores.

FOOTBALL table listing various football fixtures, results, and league information.

TODAY'S FIXTURES table listing various sports fixtures for the day, including football, tennis, and other sports.

FOOTBALL

Repton put title in safekeeping

By JOHN GOODBODY

REPTON, playing with pace and determination, won *The Times* six-a-side football tournament for independent schools at Wellingborough yesterday.

It was their first victory in the 41 years of this annual competition and, throughout the day, they displayed the necessary impetus to take the title. They also had a goalkeeper, in Tom Newcombe, who was both adept at stopping close-range shots and advancing quickly out of goal when danger threatened.

In the final against Ardingly College, Newcombe brought off one superb save from Drew Menzies to ensure that Repton won 1-0. Their goal came from Dave Baker, with a swerving shot from 25 yards.

Noel Bennett, the Repton master-in-charge, said: "We did not expect to go so well this term. When we have been

good, we've been very good, but when we have been bad, we've been awful. Today, we were good."

In the quarter-finals, Repton beat Bury GS only on penalties. Jean-Paul Gordon, the Repton striker, had two clear-cut chances to win the game in open play, which finished goalless, but failed to convert either.

Last year, Repton won all 18 of their matches during this term, only to lose 4-3 to Bolton in the semi-finals of the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup, the knockout competition for independent schools. This season, Repton have again reached the semi-finals and will now meet Wolverhampton GS next month, while Ardingly, the holders, meet Hampton.

For Ardingly, this was the third time in five years that they have lost the six-a-side final. This season, they have won 18 11-a-side matches, only

losing to Brentwood, and they defeated the Essex school 1-0 yesterday to reach the last eight. After beating Lancing and then King's, Chester, they were slight favourites. However, Graham Dawtry, the master-in-charge, said: "We never got started and the better team won on the day."

Dulwich became the first invited school to reach the final of the plate competition, made up of those schools that finished in third and fourth places in the preliminary pools yesterday.

In the final, they met Bradford College and produced a dogged display in losing 3-2, twice equalising only to concede the winner when a shot by Alex Jeffries hit the crossbar and rebounded on to the arm of Rhys Pinna-Griffith, the goalkeeper, and into the net.



Results, page 48 Andy Turner, of Wolverhampton GS, goes past James Martin in the 2-0 defeat of Oswestry in a preliminary match yesterday

Manager makes his mark

By STEPHEN WOOD

BRIAN KIDD, the manager of Blackburn Rovers, began the process of restructuring his backroom staff yesterday when he ended the contract of Derek Fazackerly, the club's first-team coach.

Fazackerly made a record 674 appearances in 17 years for Blackburn before joining the backroom staff in 1991.

Kidd, who became the manager after leaving Manchester United last week, hopes to replace Fazackerly before Rovers' next FA Carling Premiership match, which is against Newcastle United on Saturday. Tony Parkes, who took over the caretaker-manager duties after the dismissal of Roy Hodgson, has been given assurances by Kidd that he will be retained on the coaching staff.

South Africa have complied with the wishes of Leeds United and left Lucas Radebe, their captain, out of their squad for the Nelson Mandela Inauguration Challenge against Egypt in Johannesburg a week tomorrow. Radebe is now free to play for his club against Coventry City on Monday and Arsenal six days later.

ROWING

'Itchy' surges clear in trial

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

BRAD CROMBIE, the Cambridge president, from Canada, pleased himself and Hugh MacLaren, the Canadian High Commissioner, his guest, by rowing in the winning Cambridge trial eight, "Itchy", yesterday.

The race, between "Itchy" and "Scratchy", produced a procession rather than the tense contests of recent years between Cambridge crews. "Itchy", on Middlesex and stroked by Richard Stokes, the 1998 Goldie performer, set off from Putney in a racier style and rate of striking and had a lead of more than a length by the Fulham Bend, where they rated 36 to Scratchy's 32.

Vian Sharif, the itchy coxswain, then cut the bend — not a recognised manoeuvre — but her crew continued to go away. They led by two lengths at the Mile before, under instructions from Crombie at No 7, Sharif moved back towards Surrey at Harrods Wharf. From then on, always at a higher rate, "Itchy" opened the gap steadily, to 4½ lengths at the finish.

For Robin Williams, the Cambridge coach, it was not a total surprise, nor a disappointment: "Itchy has been picking up speed all the week. There was some good rowing and it was informative."

Both crews looked a little scrapper than some of their recent predecessors, but the time, 17min 11sec, was fast. Conditions were calm, but the tide was not especially helpful.

In the winning crew, David Ellis, of the United States, a winner at Henley this year, looked tough, as did Ketran West, a Great Britain Under-23 performer. In "Scratchy", Tim Wooge looked solid at No 6.

ITCHY: D J Tweedie (St Paul's School and Trinity Hall), bow; J Paine (Barnegat and Hornton College); R C Campbell (Rory and Peterhouse); C J Hebborn (The King's School, Chelsea and Peterhouse); D O M Ellis (Harvard USA and Trinity); K M West (Dulwich College and Christ); R E B Crombie (Cambridge University); R P Stokes (Stoke Newington and Trinity); stroke, V Sharif (Lucy Greaves Holes and Chelms); cox, SCRATCHY: D H Buxton (Athen School and Hampton); R J Goughan (St Andrew's College and Fitzwilliam); C H Wilkes (Leichart, Telford School, Liverpool and Gorton); A J West (Vale University, USA and Goring and Colton); J J Welles (Widley School, Southamptn and Jesuit); North Eastern University, USA and Magdalen; G C D R Smith (Westminster School, Westminster College, London and St Edmund); T A Sheppard (Dunelm School and Jesuit); stroke, C W Wren (Giggleswick School, North Yorkshire and Quaker); cox, * denotes Bow

SNOOKER

Hendry keeps feet on floor

By PHIL YATES

THE wealth of experience that Stephen Hendry has accrued from winning 67 professional tournaments in a record 16 countries enables the Scot, successful at the Rotmans Malta Grand Prix on Sunday, to view individual triumphs in their correct perspective.

Hendry, who edged Ken Doherty 7-6 in an enthralling final, flew to Bingen yesterday for the German Masters, which begins this afternoon, with conflicting emotions. While relieved to have proved that he is anything but a spent force, Hendry remains appreciative of the fact that his game is still a long way short of optimum efficiency.

To employ an educational analogy, the select field in the Mediterranean was a useful mock examination, but the German Masters, a televised event featuring ten of the top 11 players in the world rankings, plus Jimmy White and Steve Davis is the real test.

"Of course I am happy about winning again," Hendry said. "Any title means a lot and, generally, I did play much better than of late, but there's certainly no room for complacency. The important thing now, in terms of confidence, is to build on this."

Hendry compiled breaks of 69, 97, 67 and 74 to lead Doherty 6-4, but needed a run of 69 in the deciding frame to clinch the match. Indeed, the six-times world champion was annoyed that he had not sealed his victory much earlier.

In addition to prevailing at tournaments in his native Scotland, Hendry has also seen his name engraved on trophies in England, Wales, Ireland, Belgium, France, Germany, Monaco, Dubai, Thailand, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Malta, India and China. His next quest for overseas success gets underway on Thursday, when he meets Peter Ebdon or Tony Drago in the quarter-finals of the inaugural German Masters. John Higgins, the world champion, awaits John Parrott or White.

The only notable absentee is Ronnie O'Sullivan, who also withdrew from the United Kingdom championship citing "physical and mental exhaustion." His replacement is Anthony Hamilton.

THE TIMES

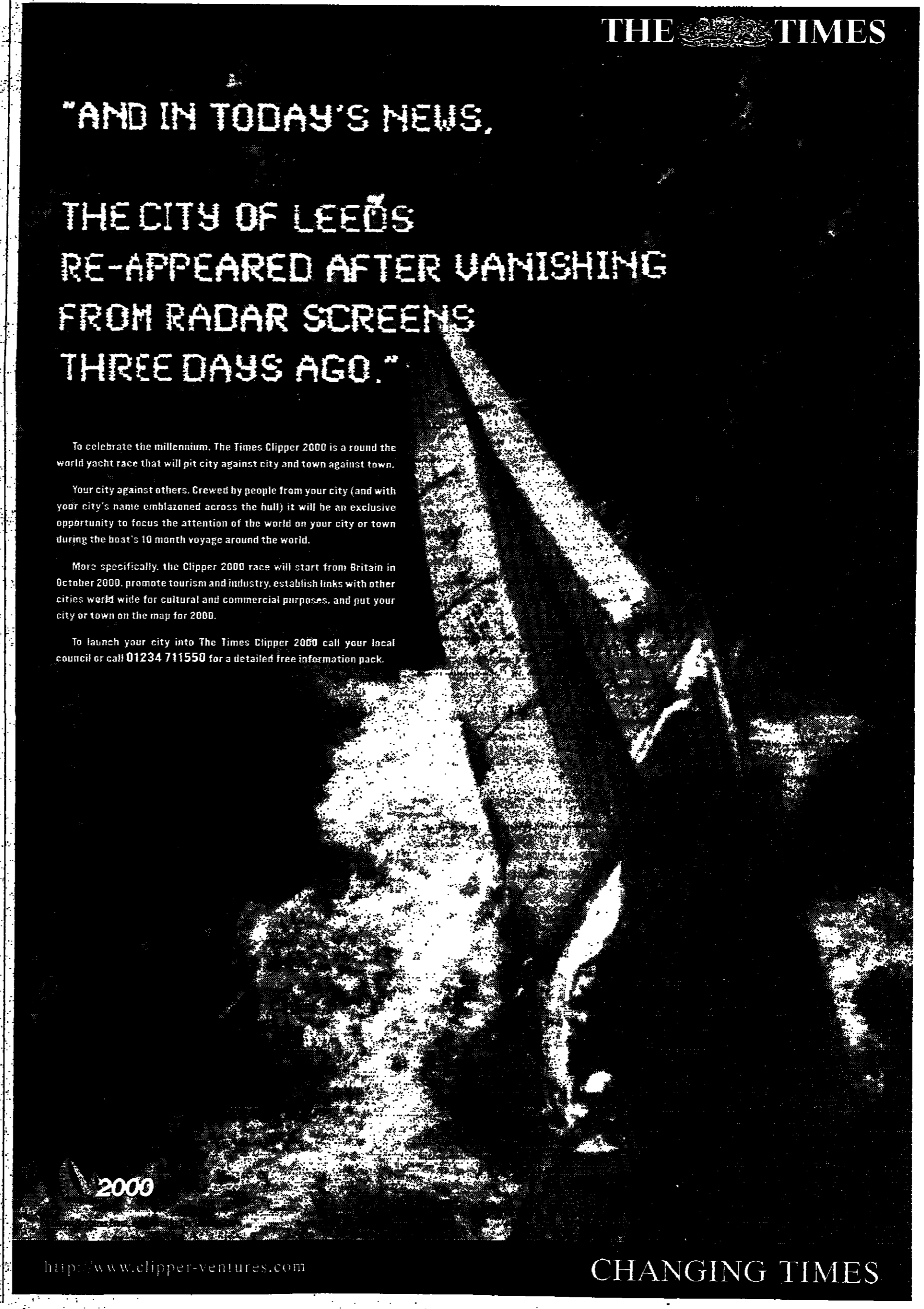
"AND IN TODAY'S NEWS,
THE CITY OF LEEDS
RE-APPEARED AFTER VANISHING
FROM RADAR SCREENS
THREE DAYS AGO."

To celebrate the millennium, The Times Clipper 2000 is a round the world yacht race that will pit city against city and town against town.

Your city against others. Crewed by people from your city (and with your city's name emblazoned across the hull) it will be an exclusive opportunity to focus the attention of the world on your city or town during the boat's 10 month voyage around the world.

More specifically, the Clipper 2000 race will start from Britain in October 2000, promote tourism and industry, establish links with other cities world wide for cultural and commercial purposes, and put your city or town on the map for 2000.

To launch your city into The Times Clipper 2000 call your local council or call 01234 711550 for a detailed free information pack.



2000

<http://www.clipper-ventures.com>

CHANGING TIMES

Answers from page 46
INANGA
(c) The New Zealand name for a small fish, *Galaxias attenuatus*, the young form of which is called whitebait. The Maori name for it, "Every year shoals of the tiny, delicious inanga fish come up the creeks from the sea."
MAHORKA
(a) A coarse tobacco smoked in Russia mostly by soldiers and peasants. In Russian the word means shag. "The sighs and sounds of St Petersburg — the smell of mahorka tobacco and of the droshkies."
MUCKA-MUCKA
(b) A name used in Guyana for the large perennial herb,

Cadadium arborescens, native to tropical America and belonging to the family Araceae. The native name, "I sat alone and very still in a primitive dug-out after edging it into the heart of the mucka-mucka plant and tying the boat to one of its thick stems."
HOLARD
(a) The total water content of the soil. A term that is useful for geologists and ecologists. The Greek means "all the water."
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1, Re8 Qxe8; 2, Qf6+ Kg8; 3, Bh6 and mate follows.

CRICKET: ENGLAND BATSMAN MAY ABANDON TOUR AFTER BACK INJURY CAUSES MORE PROBLEMS

Thorpe likely to return home



Walking wounded: Gough, the England twelfth man, and Crawley look on as Thorpe trudges back to the dressing-room after having to retire hurt.

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE (third day of four): England XI, with five sixes and sixes in hand, are 280 runs ahead of Victoria

GRAHAM THORPE was effectively ruled out of the third Test match — and quite possibly the rest of this tour — when his troublesome back forced him to retire hurt here yesterday. 40 uncomfortable minutes into an innings that was intended to confirm his fitness. The England management will decide today whether Thorpe should return home, but already they will be acknowledging privately that it was a mistake to bring him. Last night, Graham Gooch, the tour manager, said: "We are not going to rush anything, but we will have to assess the situation in another 24 hours."



Thorpe leans on his bat for support after aggravating his old back injury yesterday

field in which he took a smart, stooping slip catch, he has failed. He had made only a single, from 29 balls, when he alerted Morton to his discomfort and it was decided during the drinks interval that he should come off. "It kept locking on him," Gooch said. "He felt he couldn't continue."

Plainly, Thorpe has a fundamental weakness. Sadly, it must now be accepted that it is likely to shorten his career. The regularity with which he has broken down during the past nine months makes him an unacceptable risk for five-

day cricket and the wise course would be for him to seek advice and treatment back in England. Thorpe's woes began during the Barbados Test match in March, when he retired briefly during his first-innings century. He returned home early from that tour, missing the bulk of the one-day cricket, then withdrew from the England Tenac Trophy squad in May and finally submitted to surgery after making three successive Test match noughts in mid-summer.

It has taken England another hour at the start of play to separate the Victorian bowler pair, Shawn Craig and Peter Koach came together at 87 for five and added 130, not always prettily but with great determination. The last four Victorian wickets fell for 19, leaving Craig unbeaten on 83 after more than six hours' batting and England played positively to expand their 73-run lead towards an overnight declaration.



Dean Headley, whose seam bowling credentials have been relegated by the advances of Alex Tudor, finished with five for 58 as England finally dismissed Victoria for 300. Then John Crawley, his Test place apparently lost after four successive failures, made 68 in his stand-in opening role.

Neither man can now be discounted from England's Test plans. Headley used the new ball far more potently than Angus Fraser, who has had one of those games when he appears to be running in through a sand-tune, and he is a valid alternative to Dominic Cork if England persist with four seam bowlers.

MacGill's leg spinner has been recalled by Australia for the third Test match against England in Adelaide, starting on Friday. The selectors have dropped Michael Kasparowicz, the fast bowler, from the 12-man squad.

MacGill was left out when Australia won the second Test in Perth, after playing an important role in the drawn opening Test in Brisbane, because the selectors believed that pace would be the key factor at the Waca. However, if Australia face a dry, spinner's pitch in Adelaide and decide to play MacGill and Colin Miller, either Damien Fleming or Jason Gillespie would make way. Gillespie took seven for 111 in Perth, including four wickets in six balls in the second innings, while Fleming was man of the match with nine for 91.



Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, said that Adelaide had a history of suiting bats-

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

England XI: First innings 372 (A.J. Stewart 126, M.A. Atherton 76, G.A. Hick 67, J.R. Baker 4 for 45)

Victoria: First innings 110 (J.L. Anderson 43, J.P. Reid 39, M.P. Mar 17, G.R. Stephenson 17, G.R. Stephenson 17, G.R. Stephenson 17)

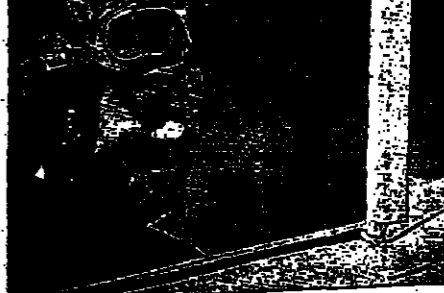
Liverpool v Celta Vigo. Live tonight only on Channel 5.



TELEVISION CHOICE

Antiques take to the air

Classic Aircraft
Channel 4, 8.30pm
Having covered trains, cars, motor cycles, trucks and almost every other form of transport you can think of, the only "classics" left to this series were aeroplanes. So here they are, old machines brought out, dusted off and sent back into the air and recalled by the men (they were usually men) who flew them. Programme one is about spy planes, used for taking photographs over enemy territory or dropping agents. In the Second World War one of the leaders in photo reconnaissance was a modified Spitfire, painted blue and striped with guns and armour plating to reduce weight and increase speed. For dropping agents into occupied France the ideal vehicle was a failed fighter plane, the Westland Lysander, with its ability to land and take off in very short spaces.



Peter Fahy, a former reconnaissance pilot, recalls his endeavors (Channel 4, 8.30pm)

Cutting Edge: The Outsider
Channel 4, 9.00pm
In general Eastbourne, overlooking a bowling green and then the sea, is the Avondale Hotel. But it stopped being a hotel in the conventional sense five years ago, and its "guests" now are people living on social security with nowhere else to go. Dominic Savage's film is a study of four of them, in their early twenties and with similar stories to tell. All are the product of broken homes. Carla was abused by her father, Glen's alcoholic father beat his mother up in front of him, Jamie has been in prison for burglary. Darren has tried to set fire to himself. All have been on drugs. As we meet them there is a chance, just, that they can arrest the downward spiral. Carla is expecting Glen's child, Jamie has a new girlfriend. But nobody watching this uncompromising study of society's rejects would bet on it.

unobtrusive still. Thomas's parents are separated, which means he has to cross the river to see his father, his school report is poor and his spare hours are spent aimlessly kicking footballs in bleak streets of boarded-up buildings and uncleaned rubbish. But in France there is excitement aplenty, available at the flick of a television switch. Although England's campaign ends early, Thomas can relish the brilliance of his young Liverpool hero Michael Owen.

Modern Times: Come on England!
BBC2, 9.30pm (not Scotland)
The latest in a series of oblique recollections of the 1998 World Cup is set in a deprived area of inner-city Liverpool. Here 11-year-old Thomas and his friends happily embrace football as a diversion from everyday lives which lack purpose and prospects. But if Richard Ayoobi's film has a simple theme it is developed with quiet sympathy and

An Ethiopian Journey
ITV, 10.40pm (Ulster, 11.10pm)
In 1973 Jonathan Dimbleby went to Ethiopia and brought back a report on the famine and starvation so graphic that it shocked the British people into donating £35 million in today's money. Dimbleby's report of the Red Terror led him to be banned from Ethiopia for ten years and he was banned again in the late 1980s. Now, 25 years after his original film, he is back. In the time the population has doubled and despite a record harvest people are still going hungry. But Ethiopia is now a democracy, promising freedom and human rights, and Dimbleby is cautiously optimistic. Peter Waymark

Between the Lines
Radio 2, 9.00pm
Bob Harris starts this programme stuck on an unannounced evening taken half an hour to cover 400 yards. The programme celebrates 40 years of motorways in Britain: the M1 opened in 1959 but the very first motorway in Britain was the Preston bypass, now part of the M6, which opened earlier in the same year, though the eight-mile Preston stretch closed three months after it opened because the surface was breaking up. That was something of a talisman for the coming of that dreaded notice, "delays possible for two years". This programme talks to pro- and anti-motorway types and there is music from Martin Carthy, who has updated some of the songs written for the early road builders.

Afternoon Play: The Road Back
Radio 4, 2.15pm
This is a compelling account, based on real events, of what can happen when a person who is fit and able one day suddenly wakes up in hospital unable to move. "Will I be able to speak? I'm scared. My brain... is my head all right? Cabbage, vegetable, shall we switch the machine off?" Thus Gordon Cruickshank, played by Peter Capaldi, lying in a German hospital bed in 1989. Cruickshank, a rally driver, was racing, journalist, was a passenger in a Mercedes which hit a pile of logs during testing: the driver was unhurt, Cruickshank was paralysed. The play is based on Cruickshank's own account of his time in hospital, written on a laptop computer using a stick attached to his arm. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)
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Astray in Battersea, Bali and the Balkans

You can't go far wrong with a television show about a dog — look at Lassie, or at One Man And His Dog, or Wallace And Gromit. Human beings are mad about them — especially humans who are not that mad about humans. Dog lovers are people who can spend an entire day among amusing adults and barely say two words to them, but who will then go home and spend all evening chattering to their dog, which doesn't even understand what they're saying (unless, of course, everything humans say, when translated into dog-talk, means "run around in circles pointlessly, then frantically sniff for dog we all over the garden as if you were Annette Rice and this was your crucial mission for this week's show").

This must explain why some television producer hit on the bright idea of running a daily magazine from Battersea Dogs' Home

(BBC1), which will be bringing us the comings and goings at the famous animal refuge for the next seven weeks. The other big bonus with dog-related shows is that not only are pooches about the surest audience-builder you could hope for (other than installing a film crew to bring us daily reports from inside Isabelle Adjani's bedroom for the next seven weeks), but if a dog becomes popular with the viewing public the producer won't suddenly find himself having to pay it several million pounds to stay with the show for the next five years, as Countdown has with Carol Vorderman.

But following the cute title sequence (in which various dogs — with a nod to the BBC's recent promo — barked out the tune of Perfect Day), some viewers might have gained the wrong idea about the programme when the presenter, Shauna Lowry of Animal Hospital, asked Martin, who was driv-

ing one of the home's vans on its morning tour of police stations and animal hospitals to pick up strays, what he had rounded up. "Well, today I've got five dogs," replied Martin in the breezy manner of a chef reciting off his specials-of-the-day. "I've got a cross rottweiler, two mongrels, a Staffordshire bull terrier and a puppy boxer."

But, in fact, the strays are being treated magnificently. Not only are they sprayed and vaccinated on arrival, because you never know what diseases they might have picked up (as Dorothy Parker noted, they always say they got it from a lamp-post), but they are assessed by a "reformer" who gauges how friendly, prickly, energetic or snooty they are, so that they are matched with suitable foster owners. Owners such as Simon Callow, Callow found his huncher, Basil, at Battersea Dogs Home. I can never remember whether it's

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

dogs who become like their owners, or the other way round, but Callow and Basil seem to have met each other halfway and now happily lie down on the floor and howl in unison at music from the CD player.

Anthea Turner, who has turned into an occasional abandoned stray of the human world, returned with a new series of *Wish You Were Here?* (ITV), although

— very discreetly — she didn't specify whom she was wishing this about this week. "You have to follow your heart," she was saying just the other day. "Be true to yourself and have no regrets. I just want to be happy." So she went to Bali to stay in nice hotels and have her feet massaged on the beach. And it was all much cheaper than you might imagine, because Bali is "less expensive than it looks". Well, the reason it's less expensive than it looks is because the exchange rate has gone down the lavvy as a result of the region's economic crisis and the Balinese are struggling to make ends meet. Still, we can't all be happy. But Balinese are friendly and hospitable people, so maybe just seeing Anthea happy was enough to make them happy, too.

It's hard to tell what might make Sally Becker — the one-time "Angel of Mostar" — happy. Why does she keep risking her life — along

with those of the people she's trying to help, if you believe her detractors — on dangerous missions which frequently end in chaos? "The first time I ever brought out wounded children," she said in *Witness* (Channel 4), "I realised that this is what I had to do, and this is what I felt I was meant to do." So is this humanitarian Lone Ranger seeking some form of existential "engagement" to give her own life some meaning? Or is she just desperately trying to help? And is being desperate to help enough, when bullets are flying around as unpredictably as angry wasps?

The woman from the UN High Commissioner For Refugees didn't think so: "I think her activities were well-intentioned and they ranged from the misguided to the reckless and the irresponsible.... By going into a war zone and evacuating people

across front lines and across sensitive international borders you present yourself as somebody who is able to ensure they get across these front lines safely and that this is a good thing for them." Get the impression that there's no love lost between Becker and the UN? When things go wrong, somehow it's never Becker's fault. Her compassion can evaporate like steam hissing off a hot griddle: when events trip up her plans, she throws tantrums — wailing, on one occasion, that she'll "never bring aid to this area again for as long as I live," which is not something you hear the UN saying all that often. But Sally Becker isn't the only person who can get it wrong: people enter politics because they want to do good, and look what a mess MPs make. Cranborne and Hague would probably have had that woman from the UN/ICR shaking her head in disbelief, too.

BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (7311)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (143656)
9.00 Killy (T) (655224)
9.40 Style Challenge (131157)
10.05 City Hospital (T) (187953)
10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (422224)
11.00 Good Living with Jane Asker (423091)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (484088)
11.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1754137)
12.00pm Pass the Book (944378)
12.25 Going for a Song (942220)
12.50 The Weather Show (T) (7329747)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (T) (46822)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (4559461)
1.40 Neighbours Hannah goes on a date with Mark (T) (9750088)
2.05 Ironside: The wheelchair-bound cop is accused of informing the underworld of drug raids (T) (8857476)
2.55 Battersea Dogs' Home Life at the famous animal sanctuary (498494)
3.25 Children's Playdays (8033205)
3.50 Bananaman (853034)
4.30 ChuddeVision (8670330)
4.10 Noel's Island (6403345)
4.35 I'll Never Work (955685)
5.00 Newsround (2583863)
5.10 Aquila (8200779)
5.35 Neighbours Hannah goes on a date with Mark (T) (972048)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (427)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (73)
7.00 Holiday: The Caribbean private island of Mustique, and a break in St. Lucia, plus Food's award-winning recipes and Skiathos of the Great coast (T) (7243)
7.30 Eastenders Bianca makes a startling announcement (T) (863)
8.00 Mysteries with Carol Vorderman: The tale of Australia's biggest mystery, which took two seekers on a 30-year search for its truth, and the green you may be too good to pass up (T) (819863)
8.30 Only Fools and Horses: For only Del-boy is an innocent victim as a routine trip to the supermarket turns into a tense night when an inebriated holder the trio hostage — along with the manager (T) (729)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (2262)
9.30 Highlander (1986) immortal warriors pit themselves against each other through the centuries, ultimately clashing in New York in a dramatic final showdown from which there can be only one survivor. Action-packed off to fantasy adventure, starring Christopher Lambert, Sean Connery, Peter Onorati, Michael T. Hayes. Directed by Russell Mulcahy (T) (867866)
11.25 The Dead Can't Lie (1988) Private eye Tommy Lee Jones investigates a widower's claim that he is being harassed by phantoms. Supernatural thriller with George C. Scott, Robin Williams, and Amy Madigan. Directed by John Dahl. Directed by Russell Mulcahy (T) (867866)
1.00am World Science: The guys switch identities (T) (8168151)
1.20 Newsweek (222977)
1.25 BBC News 24 (9793573)

BBC2
7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: The Little Polar Bear (498953); 7.05 Teletubbies (548455); 7.30 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (696175); 7.55 Blue Peter (1319059); 8.20 Robinson Sucroe (652238); 8.40 Cuckoo (678175); 8.55 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (823338); 9.00 The Little Polar Bear (479753); 9.05 The Phil Simeon Show (729021); 9.30 Great Romances of the 20th Century (65048); 10.00 Teletubbies (91310); 10.30 F.L.M. The Big Circus (863075); 12.10pm Working Lunch: (174883); 12.40 Cuckoo (678175); 12.50 The Arts and Crafts Show (4971585)
1.20 Uefa Cup Football: Parma v Rangers (kick-off: 1.30pm); Gary Lineker introduces live coverage from this afternoon's third-round, second-leg tie in Italy. Subsequent programmes may run late (2184427)
3.30 Westminster with Diana Maddill: Political news (T) (885)
4.00 Change That (T) (9318798)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook! (T) (831865)
4.55 Lower (T) (7274311)
5.30 Today's the Day (T) (156)
6.00 Home and Away (T) (8105221)
6.25 WALE: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (232427)
6.25 WEST: HITV Weather (948427)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (175)
7.00 Emmerdale: Ticia and Kelly have a confrontation (T) (2911)
7.30 WEST: Take 3 Current affairs issues, including a viewer's report on the disadvantages of being small (359) (1205)
7.30 WALE: Playing for Time (T) (606330)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (T) (90262)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (644048)
6.00 Home and Away (T) (8105221)
6.25 WALE: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (232427)
6.25 WEST: HITV Weather (948427)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (175)
7.00 Emmerdale: Ticia and Kelly have a confrontation (T) (2911)
7.30 WEST: Take 3 Current affairs issues, including a viewer's report on the disadvantages of being small (359) (1205)
7.30 WALE: Bluebird (359)
8.00 The Bill: The temperature rises as Boulton races against time to catch an epileptic suspect raising hell around Sun Hill (T) (8137)
9.00 Grateaux: Unshedded council intervention brings work on the house to a halt (7/8) (T) (6601)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (72448)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (656021)

HTV
5.30am ITN Morning News (10330)
6.00 GMTV (142385)
9.25 Trifun (T) (2154576)
10.15 This Morning (T) (106040)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (T) (389963)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (T) (80330)
1.00 Shortland Street (31750)
1.30 Home and Away: Irene is suspended (T) (8901)
2.00 Christmas Home in the Country: Ideas for the festive season (4/9) (5467514)
2.40 Supermarket Sweep (T) (482346)
3.10 ITN News Headlines (T) (8142359)
3.15 HTV News (T) (8134330)
3.30 CIV: Wizardia (8122585); 3.30 Singing Kettle (3204156); 3.45 Wolves, Witches and Giants (6548882); 3.55 Zzzap! (857109); 4.15 Jumper! (9545214); 4.40 Out of Sight (1005601)
5.10 WEST: Along the Cotswold Way (T) (809330)
5.10 WALE: Playing for Time (T) (606330)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (T) (90262)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (644048)
6.00 Home and Away (T) (8105221)
6.25 WALE: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (232427)
6.25 WEST: HITV Weather (948427)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (175)
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7.30 WALE: Bluebird (359)
8.00 The Bill: The temperature rises as Boulton races against time to catch an epileptic suspect raising hell around Sun Hill (T) (8137)
9.00 Grateaux: Unshedded council intervention brings work on the house to a halt (7/8) (T) (6601)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (72448)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (656021)

WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (3299953)
12.27-12.30 Emmerdale (T) (8105221)
1.00 Christmas Home in the Country (4/9) (5467514)
2.10-2.40 Home and Away (T) (814330)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (814330)
3.45-3.50 Home and Away (T) (814330)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (814330)
7.30-8.00 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (814330)

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12.27-12.30 Emmerdale (T) (8105221)
1.00 Christmas Home in the Country (4/9) (5467514)
2.10-2.40 Home and Away (T) (814330)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (814330)
3.45-3.50 Home and Away (T) (814330)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (814330)
7.30-8.00 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (814330)

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12.27-12.30 Emmerdale (T) (8105221)
1.00 Christmas Home in the Country (4/9) (5467514)
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3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (814330)
3.45-3.50 Home and Away (T) (814330)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (814330)
7.30-8.00 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (814330)

SKY MOVIE MAX
6.00am Something Borrowed, Something Blue (1997) (703997)
6.30am The Untouchables (1960) (729448)
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SKY SPORTS 2
7.00am Soccer 7.45 Sports Centre 7.45
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SKY SPORTS 3
12.00pm Table Tennis 1.00m Fish TV
2.00pm Soccer 3.00 Golden Age of Motor Racing 4.30 Table Tennis 4.50 Golf 5.30 Equestrianism 6.00 Waterpolo World 7.00 Soccer 8.00 Olympic Distance 11.00m Close

UK GOLD
7.00am Soccer 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 Eastenders 8.30 The Bill 9.00 The Bill 9.30 The Bill 10.30 Angels 11.00 Dallas 11.35 Neighbours 12.00pm Eastenders 1.00pm The Bill 2.00pm Dallas 2.30pm The Bill 3.00pm The Bill 4.00pm Dallas 4.30pm The Bill 5.00pm Dallas 5.30pm The Bill 6.00pm Dallas 6.30pm The Bill 7.00pm Dallas 7.30pm The Bill 8.00pm Dallas 8.30pm The Bill 9.00pm Dallas 9.30pm The Bill 10.00pm Dallas 10.30pm The Bill 11.00pm Dallas 11.30pm The Bill 12.00am Dallas 12.30pm Dallas
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SKY PREMIER
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RUGBY UNION 46

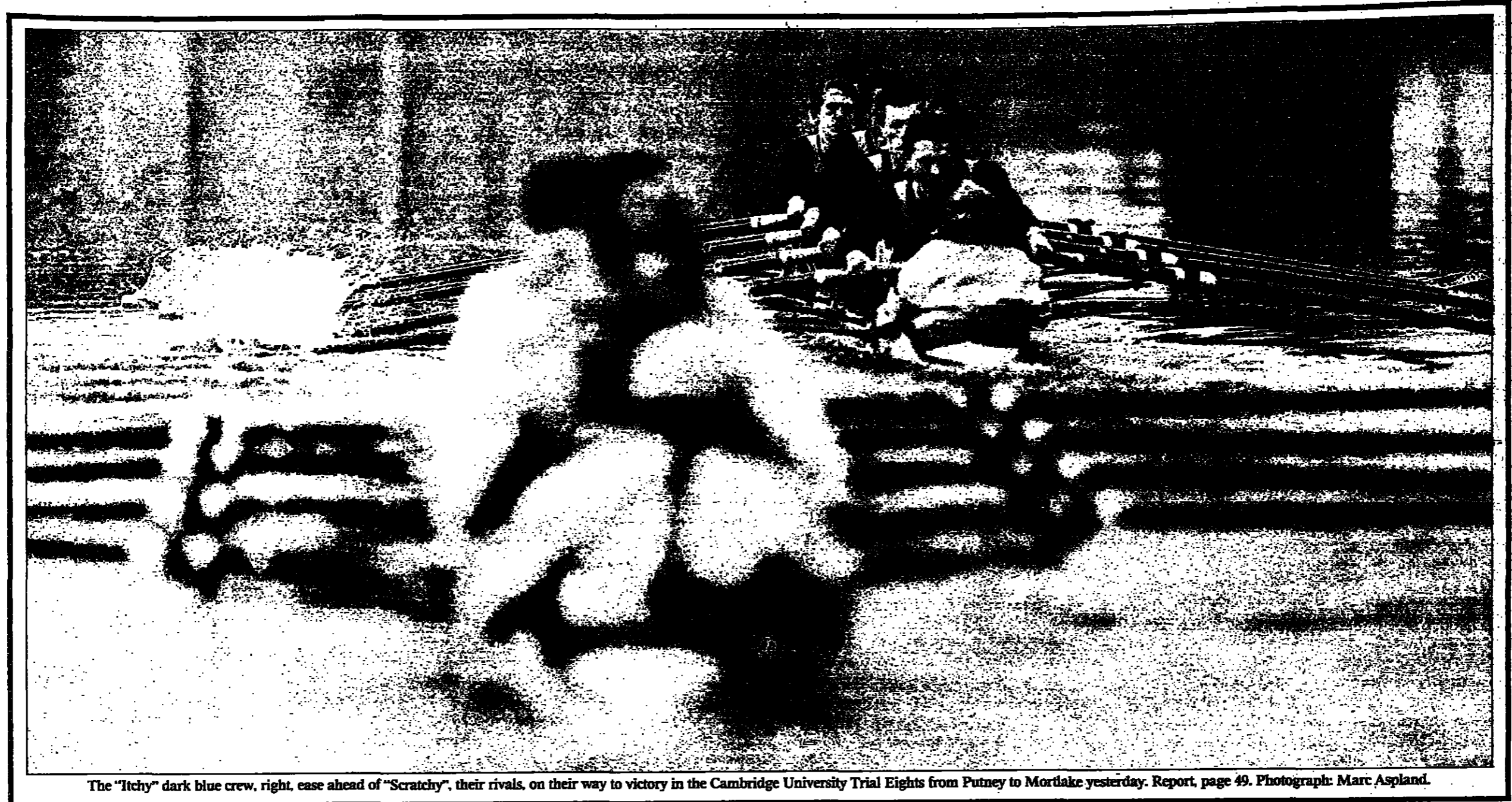
All Blacks wary of dazzling new northern lights

SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 8 1998

CRICKET 50

Thorpe lands England back in trouble

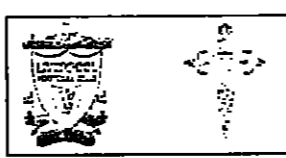


The 'Itchy' dark blue crew, right, ease ahead of 'Scratchy', their rivals, on their way to victory in the Cambridge University Trial Eights from Putney to Mordake yesterday. Report, page 49. Photograph: Marc Aspland.

Liverpool hope pride can prevent fall

THE Uefa Cup tie at Anfield tonight is gathering significance at an alarming rate. It offers Liverpool an opportunity to mend bridges with disaffected supporters who are threatening to stay at home in their thousands...

European success and could move abroad at the end of his five-year contract - were countered with a plea from Gerard Houllier for the top Liverpool players to make their dreams come true at Anfield.



By Alyson Rudd

It promises to be an evening of scenario-swapping. A straightforward victory seems so unlikely, given how desperately the Liverpool squad is depleted and how superior their opponents looked in the first leg of the third-round tie in Vigo two weeks ago...

a mirror image of the scoreline in Spain and the possibility of an extra-time decider or a penalty shoot-out.

In 1969, the away-goals rule was in its infancy and Liverpool, playing in the second round, second leg of the Fairs Cup, beat Vitoria Setubal 3-2 on the night, taking them to 3-3 on aggregate.

Fans are more sophisticated these days, but even a dangerously low IQ can spot that this Liverpool team have problems. In the first leg, Liverpool more or less gifted Celta their three goals, even though, on



Owen: ambitious

the balance of play, the Spanish team deserved such a margin of victory.

Houllier cannot suddenly produce an assured, towering defence out of the resources that combined to lose away to

Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, but a monumental degree of effort, from every player, could serve to frustrate the visitors.

But that is all part of the longer-term problems. Of more immediate concern is that Houllier has four integral players - McManaman, Redknapp, Ince and Hegggen - suspended.

By yesterday evening, fewer than 20,000 tickets had been sold. Terrestrial television coverage would not be a factor worth mentioning if Liverpool

were on a hot streak and Houllier made a plea for the fans to play their part.

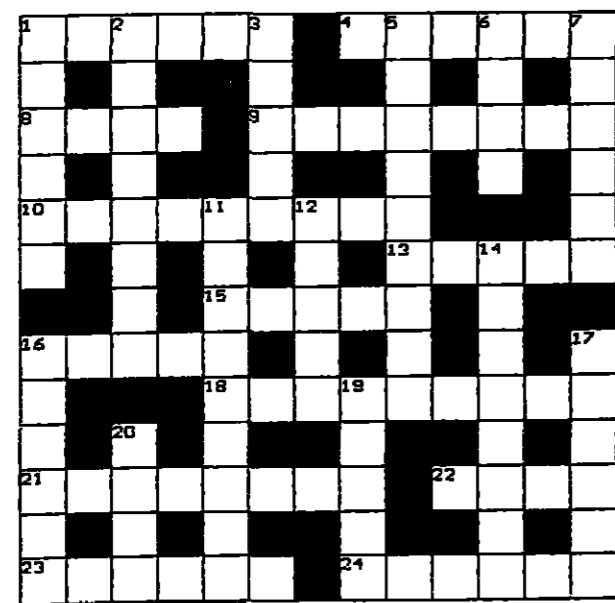
Houllier confirmed that he will stick with the wing-back system, but if Vigo play with one striker, he will adapt accordingly.

when Houllier indicated that he plans to keep the German forward on the bench.

How Liverpool long for consistency, but that can go hang if tonight the team defies the odds and produces a thrilling comeback. Such a result would keep the club's European aspirations alive until March.

LIVERPOOL (probable 4-4-2): D. James - F. Senechal, S. Brannan, J. Carragher - J. McManaman, S. Gerrard, G. Soriano, P. Bagan, S. Bognarovic - M. Owen, R. Fowler. CELTA VIGO (probable 4-5-1-2): R. Dominguez - M. Salgado, F. Casares, G. Dorado, Torres - V. Korpik, M. Zorrilla, C. Melendo - A. Mouton - L. Perez, J. G. Sanchez. Reference: H. Stramps (Germany). TELEVISION: Channel 5, from 7.15pm

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1583

- ACROSS: 1 Of the universe (6) 4 Dirty smear (6) 8 Chief sounds like a US state (4) 9 Accident narrowly averted (4,4) 10 Slave kind to Lion (eg G B Shaw) (9) 13 Rich (Austrian) cake (5) 15 Jewelled headdress (5) 16 Trial panellist (5) 18 A thief (Gk. myth); a pedlar (Winter's Tale) (9) 21 Easily deceived (6) 22 Bloke; bay (4) 23 Brother's boy (6) 24 Lyme Regis county (6) DOWN: 1 Struggle against (6) 2 One defrauding (9) 3 One imputing worst motives (5) 5 Thin wisp of cloud (5,4) 6 Irish Lower House (4) 7 Make certain (6) 11 Banish; send to Coventry (9) 12 Inclined; rested (against) (5) 14 War victim; prisoner; aid group (5,5) 16 Barbarous, specialist, vocabulary (6) 17 Agreement (6) 19 Mountain nymph (5) 20 Toss; disrespectful (slang) (4)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1582 ACROSS: 1 Ascent 4 Limited 8 Ennoble 9 Extol 10 Diary 11 Obtain 13 Either 15 Soothe 18 Quarry 20 Flint 22 Lodge 23 Negated 24 Re-entry 25 Tardy DOWN: 1 Aberdeen 2 Contact 3 Tubby 4 Lie low 5 Maestro 6 Turf 7 Dole 12 Heatedly 14 Earnest 16 Twister 17 Sydney 19 Uduoe 20 Fight 21 Star

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Times man is top tipster

By Chris McGrath

RICHARD EVANS, the racing correspondent of The Times, was yesterday confirmed as winner of the Bollinger Tipsters' Challenge at the 1999 Derby Awards.

Evans, who won £500, a free £100 bet with the Totc and a Methuselah of Bollinger champagne, said: "After napping Cavalero, the 40-1 winner of the Foxhunters' Chase over the Grand National fences, and Tom Dougal, who scored at 33-1 in a huge field of handicappers at the Craven meeting at Newmarket also in the spring, I found myself forced

to make the running from an early stage of the competition. With Simon Walker, an expert with the specialist publication, Timeform, breathing down my neck, the winning part came just in time."

Elaborating upon his overall strategy, Evans said: "The key to winning this competition was the same as the key to betting generally - you've got to go for value. In other words, horses that are bigger prices than they are entitled to be. When in doubt, however, I can always fall back on the tried-and-trusted solution of supporting horses trained by David Loder, the outstanding young trainer in Europe."



Evans: early leader

O'Leary brings Batty home

By George Caulkin

ONLY by the standards of a professional stuntman could the past six months of David Batty's career be deemed uneventful, but after the small matter of his World Cup penalty miss, a lengthy suspension for manhandling a referee and those grisly adverts of him clad in women's underwear, a little normality should emerge today when the England midfielder finally re-signs for Leeds United.

With the ink on a five-year extension to his contract at Newcastle United barely dry, Batty, 30, will complete the formalities of his £4.4 million transfer today, returning to the home-town club that he joined as a trainee in 1987. He completed a medical yesterday, leaving only the issue of personal terms extant.

Batty: unhappy commuter

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